



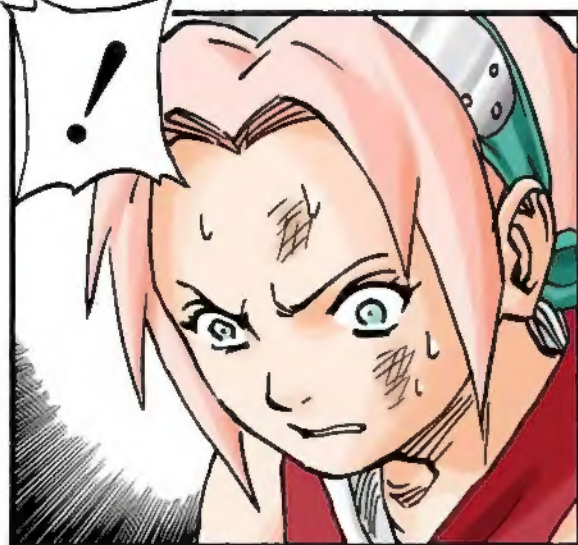
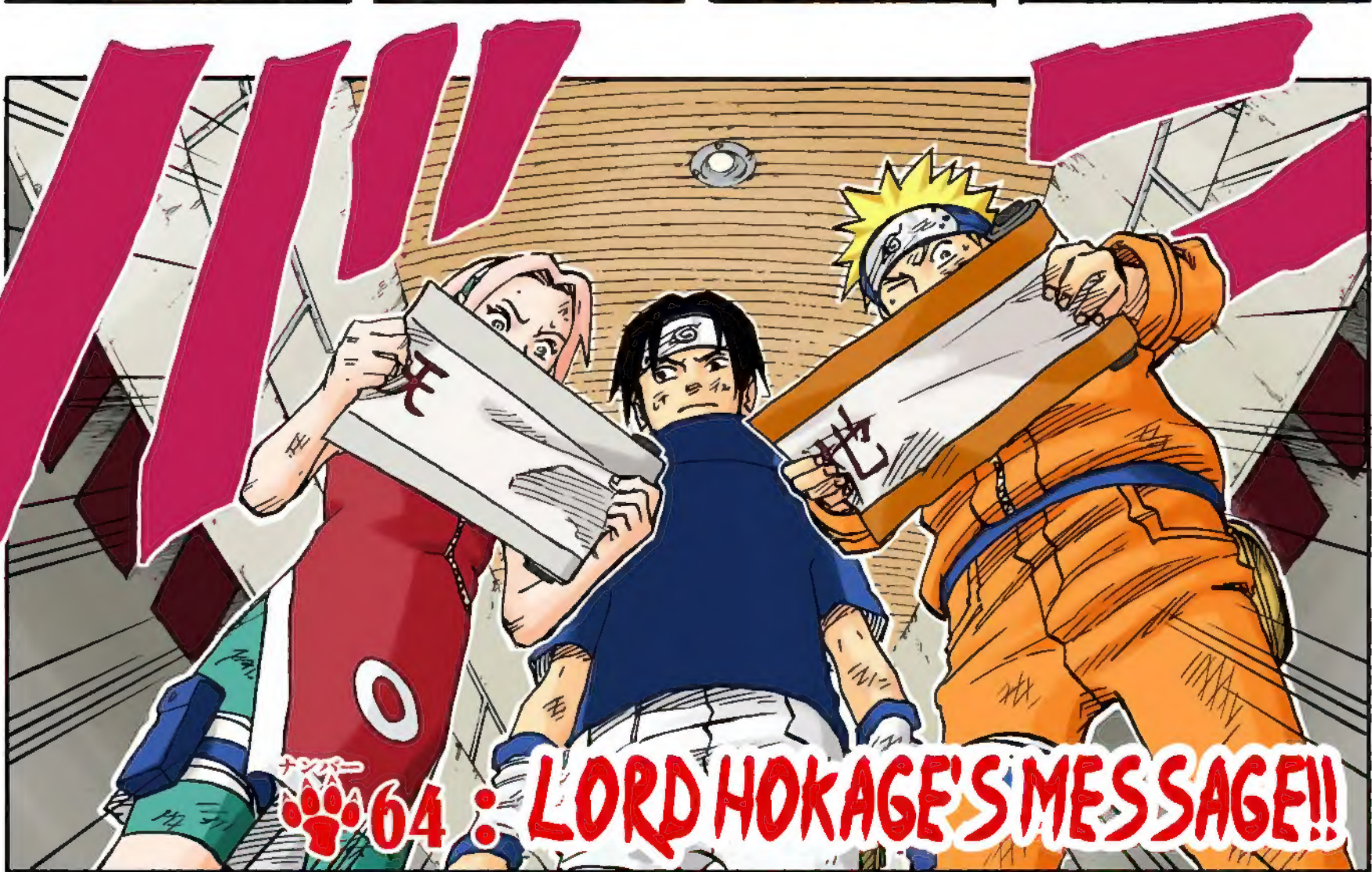
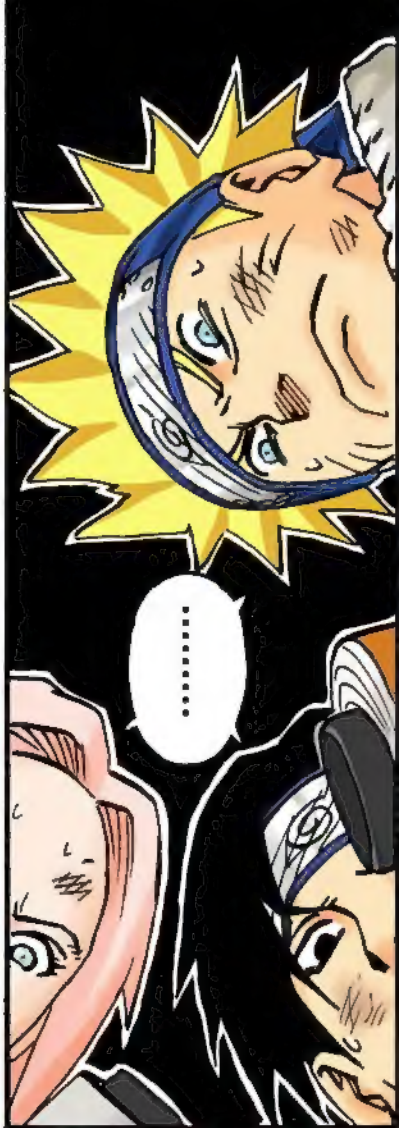
NARUTO

SHONEN **JUMP** MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto volume

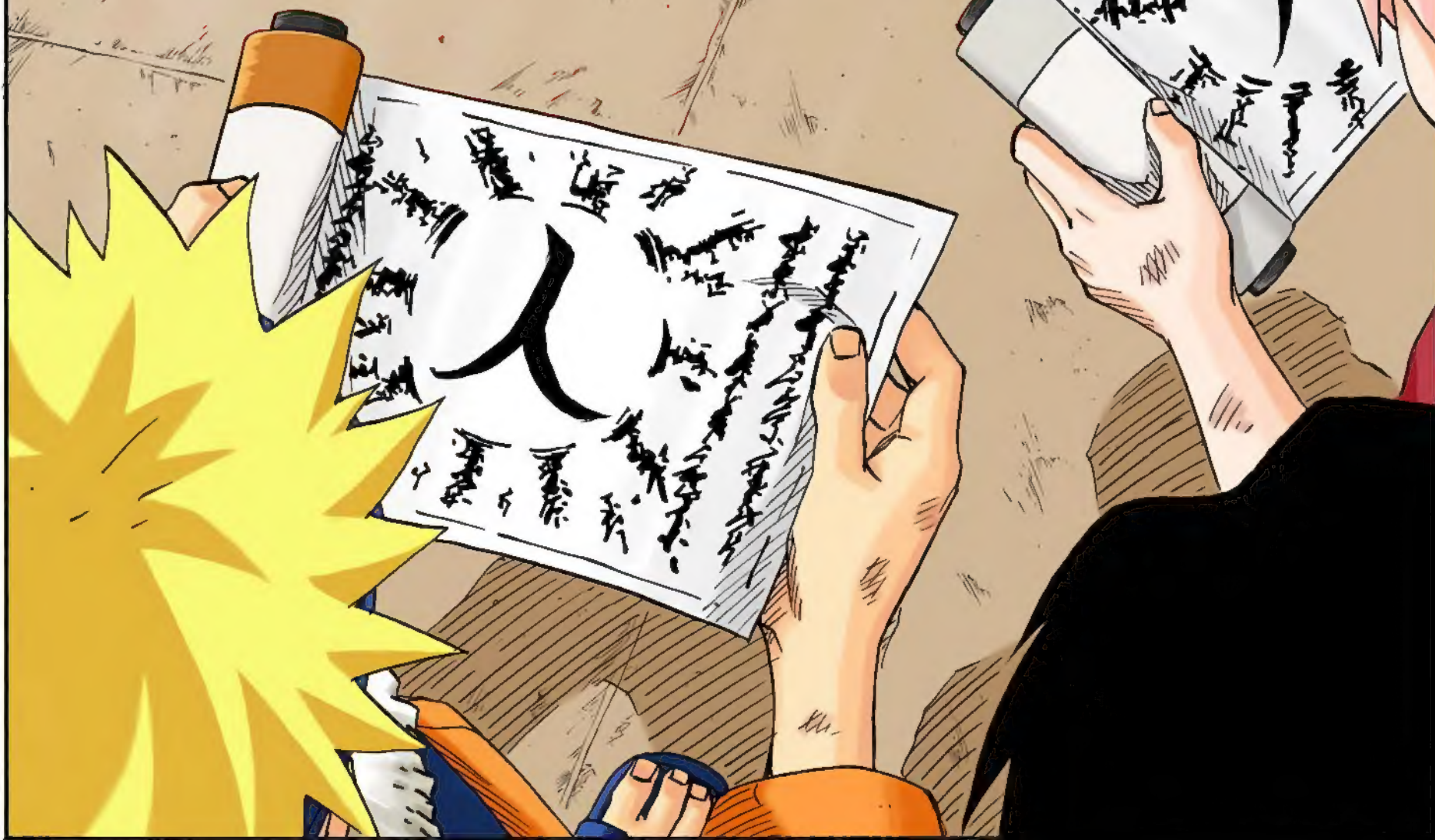
8



ナンバー

64 :

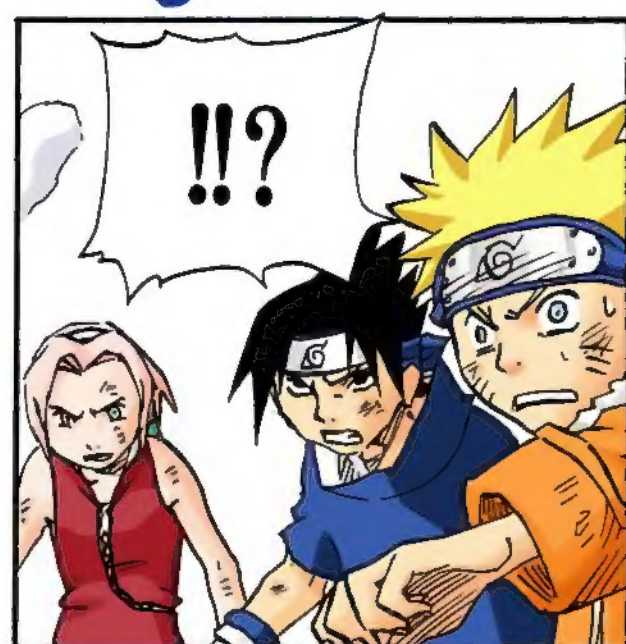
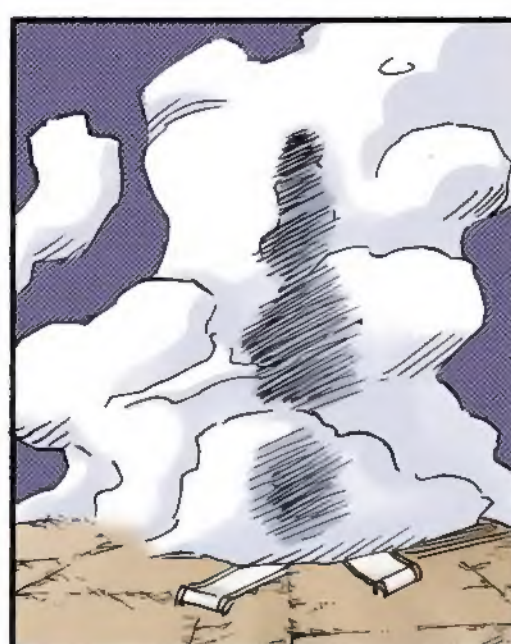
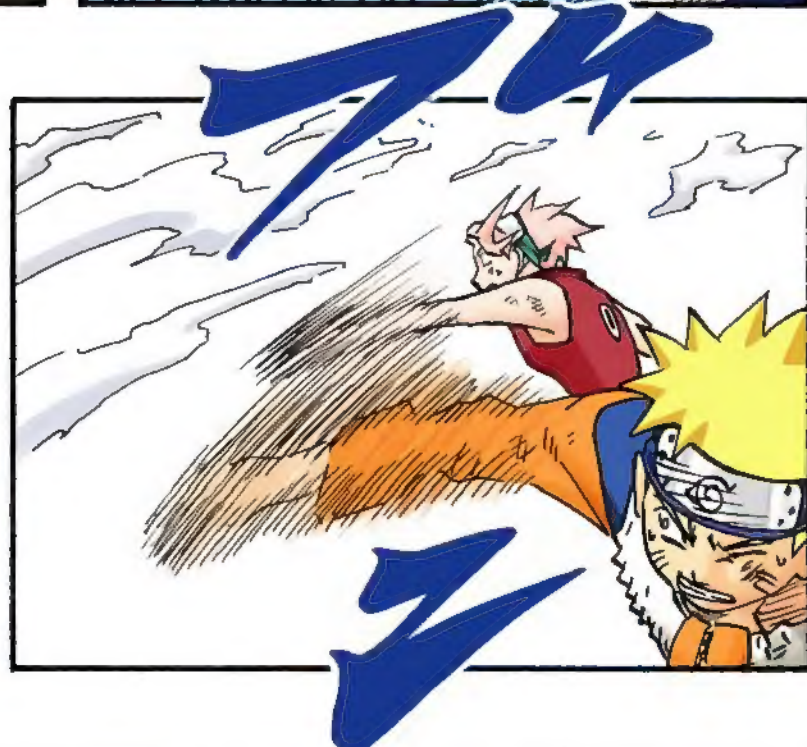
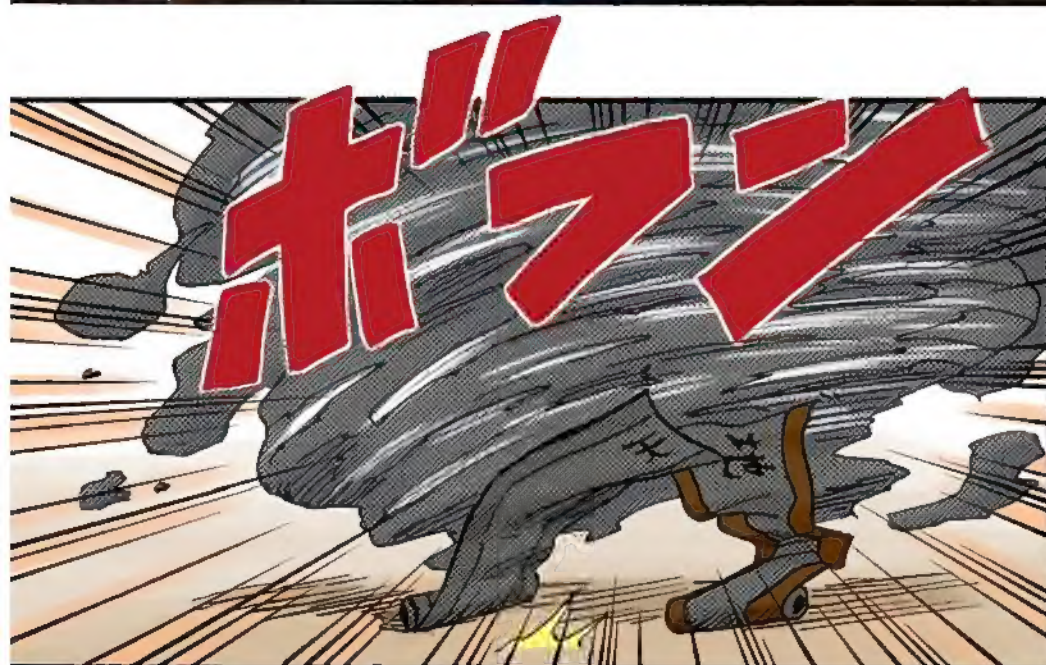
LORD HOKAGE'S MESSAGE!!



"HUMAN"...?
"MANKIND"...?

HUNH...?
WHAT IS
THIS?!



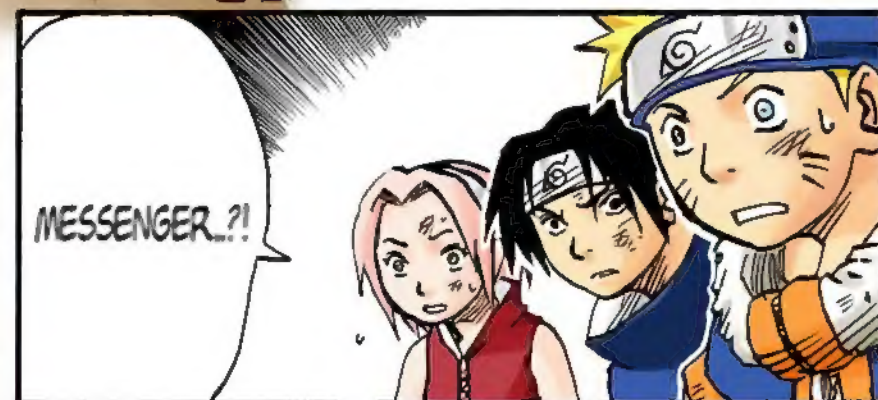
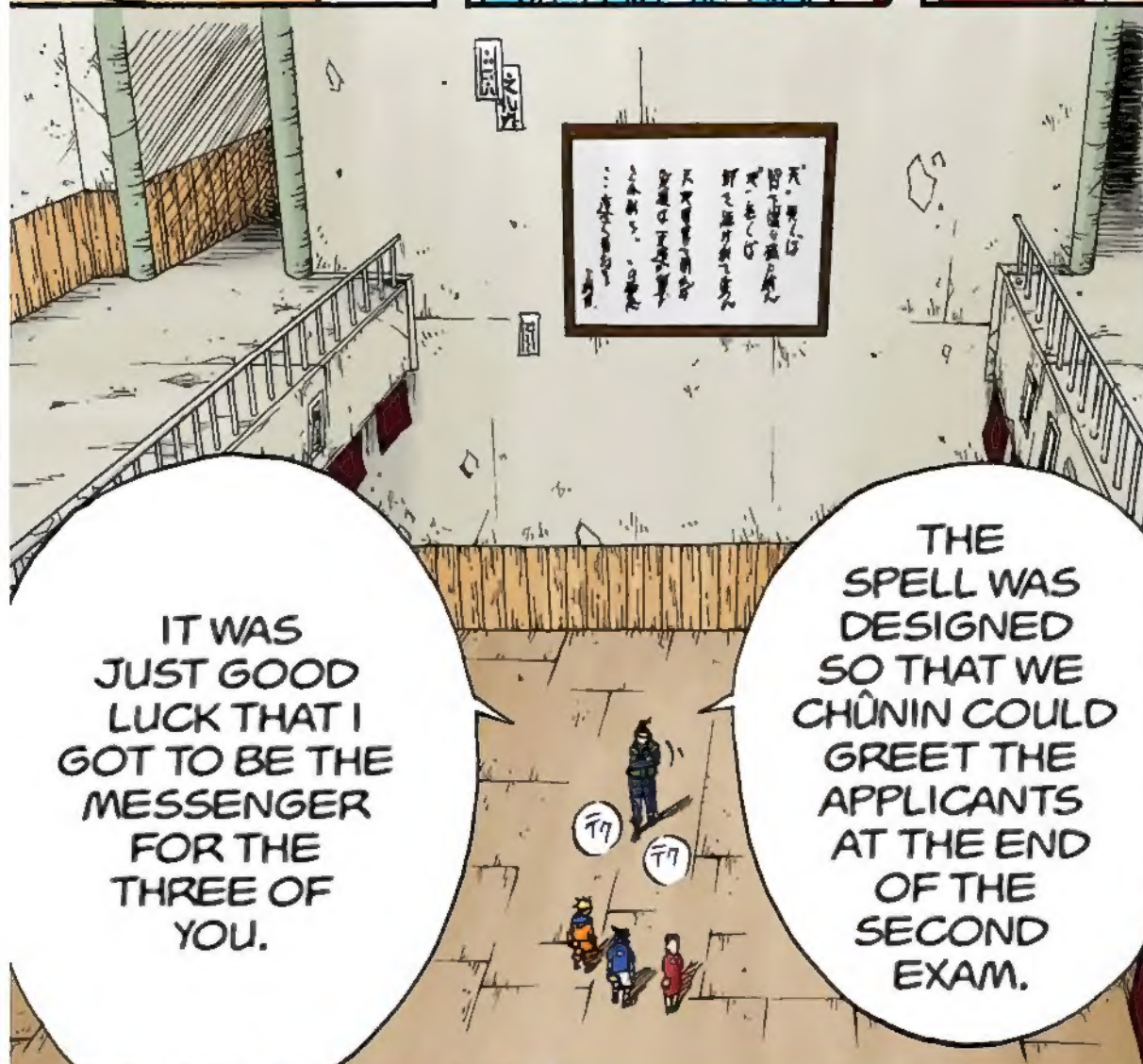


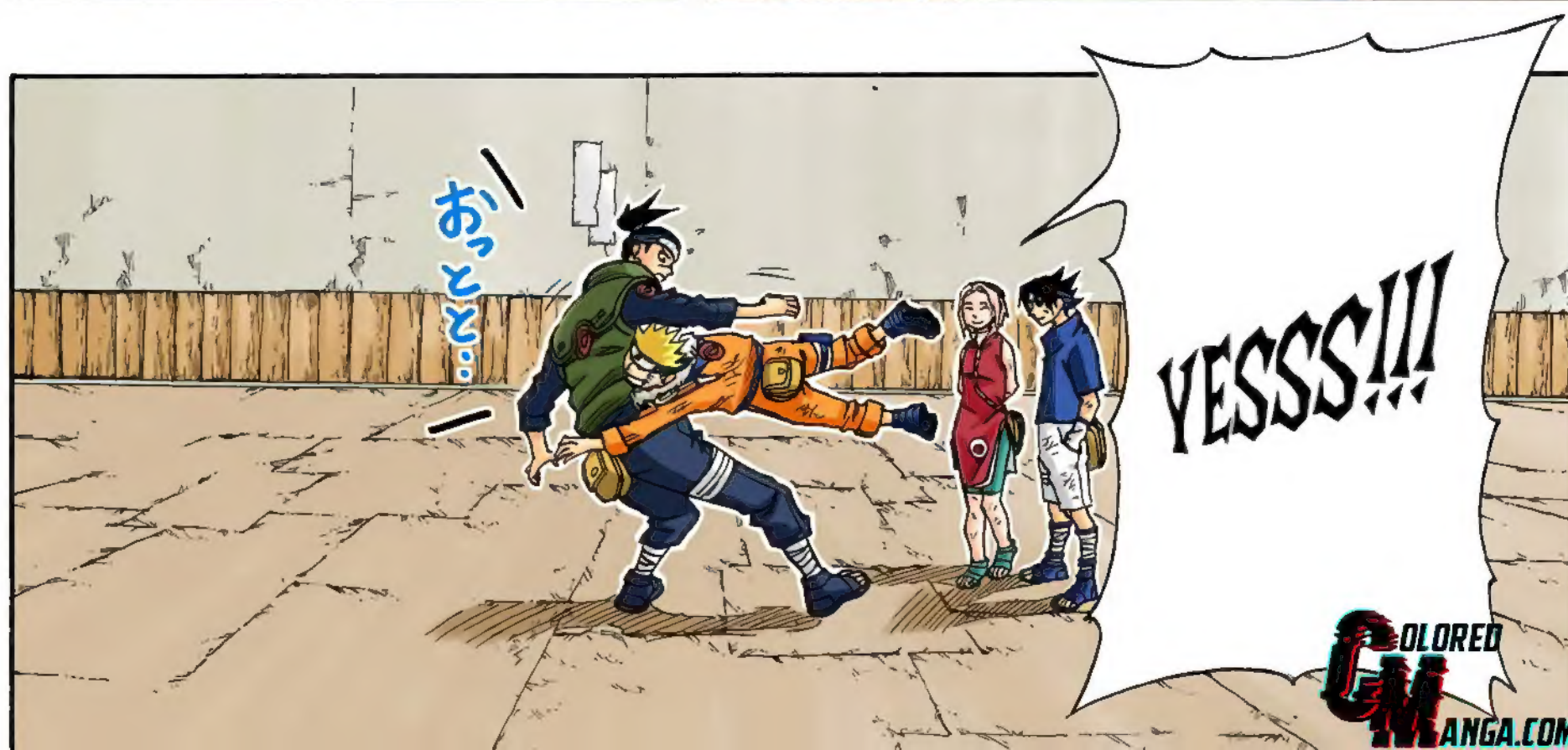


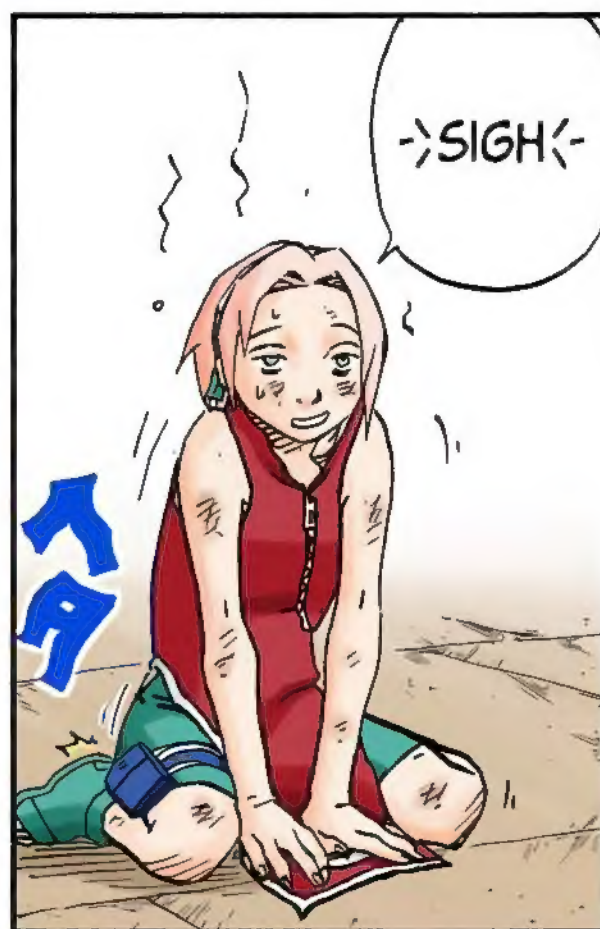
HEY,
KIDS...!

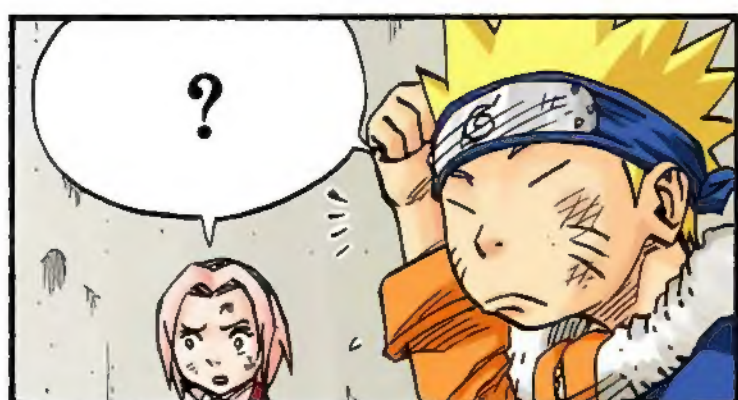
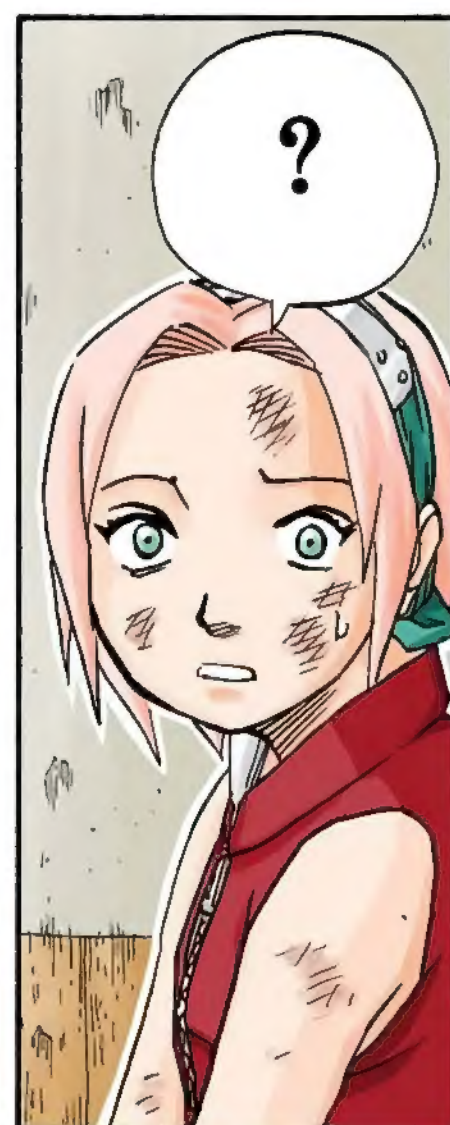


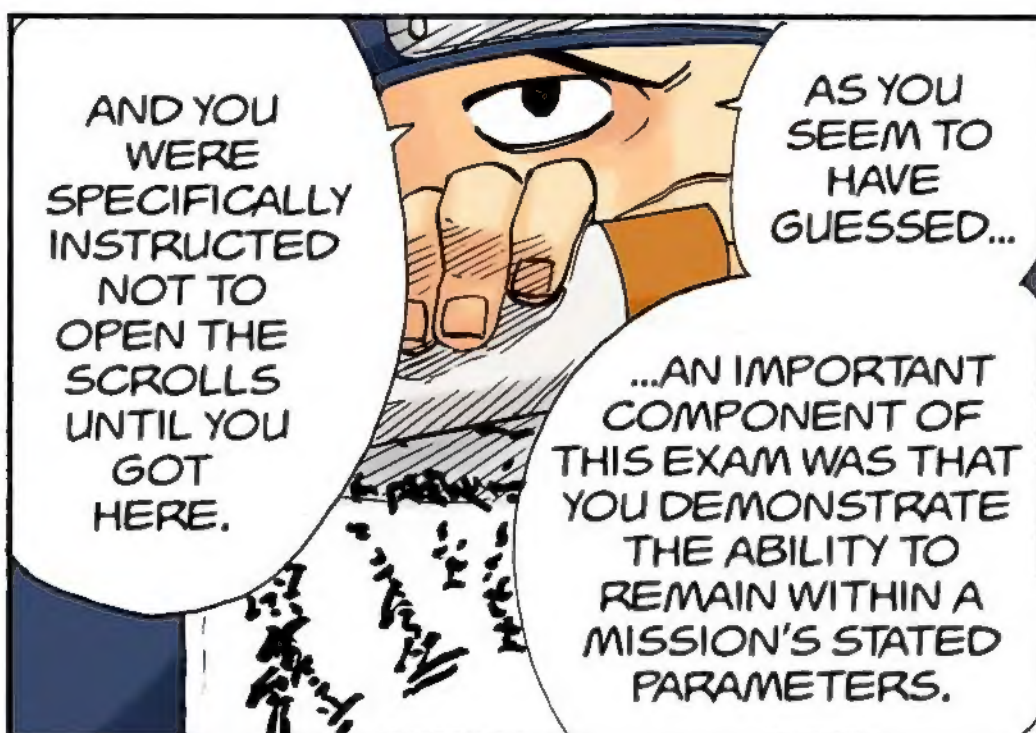
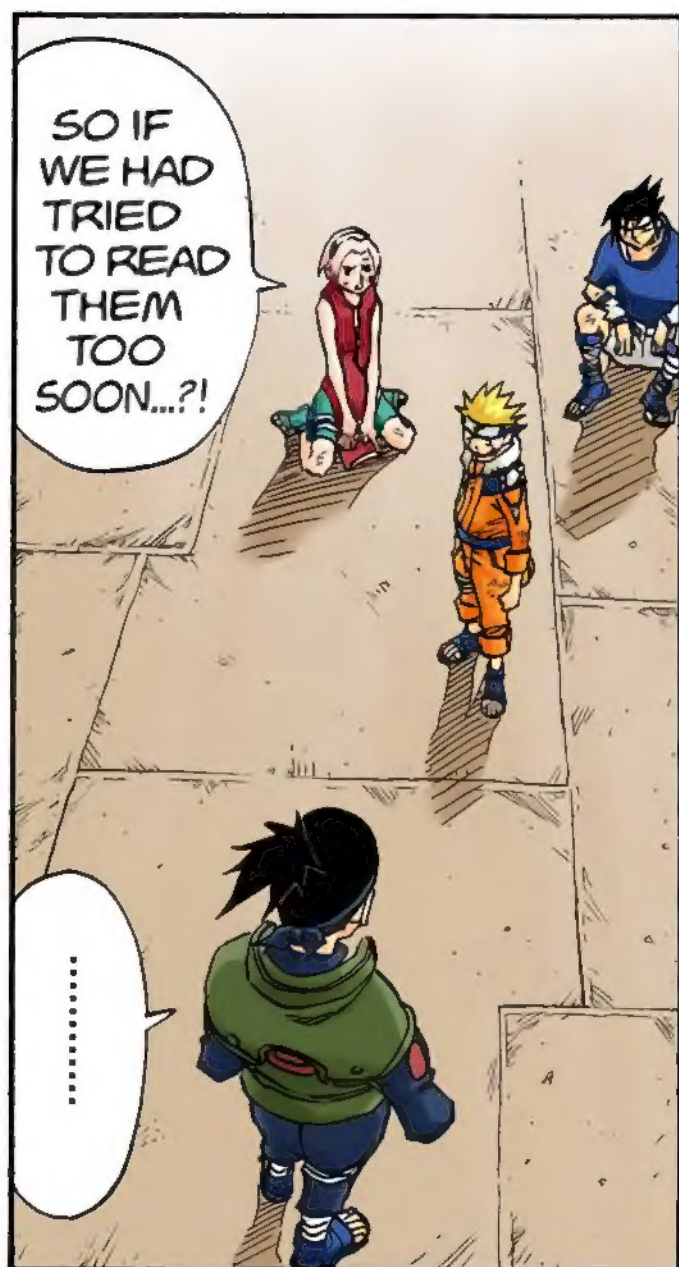
IT'S
BEEN
A WHILE,
EH?



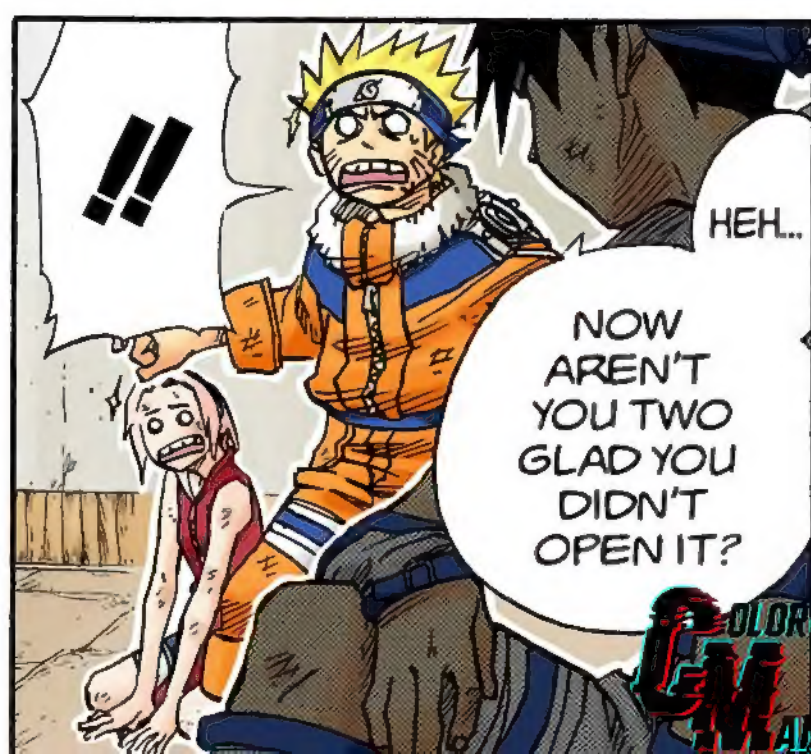
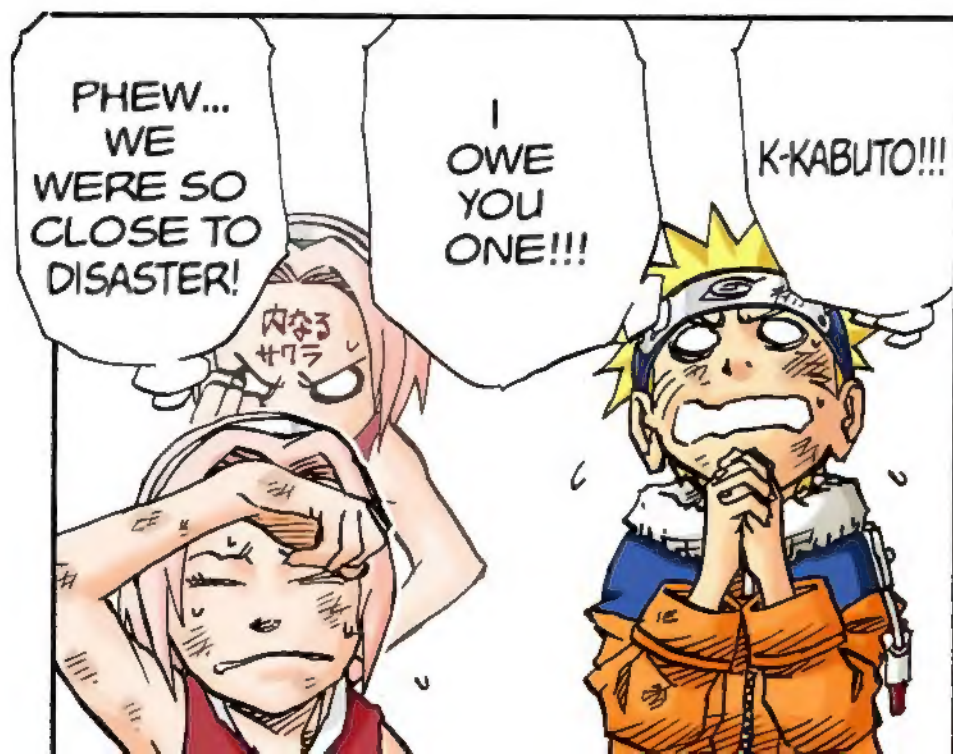


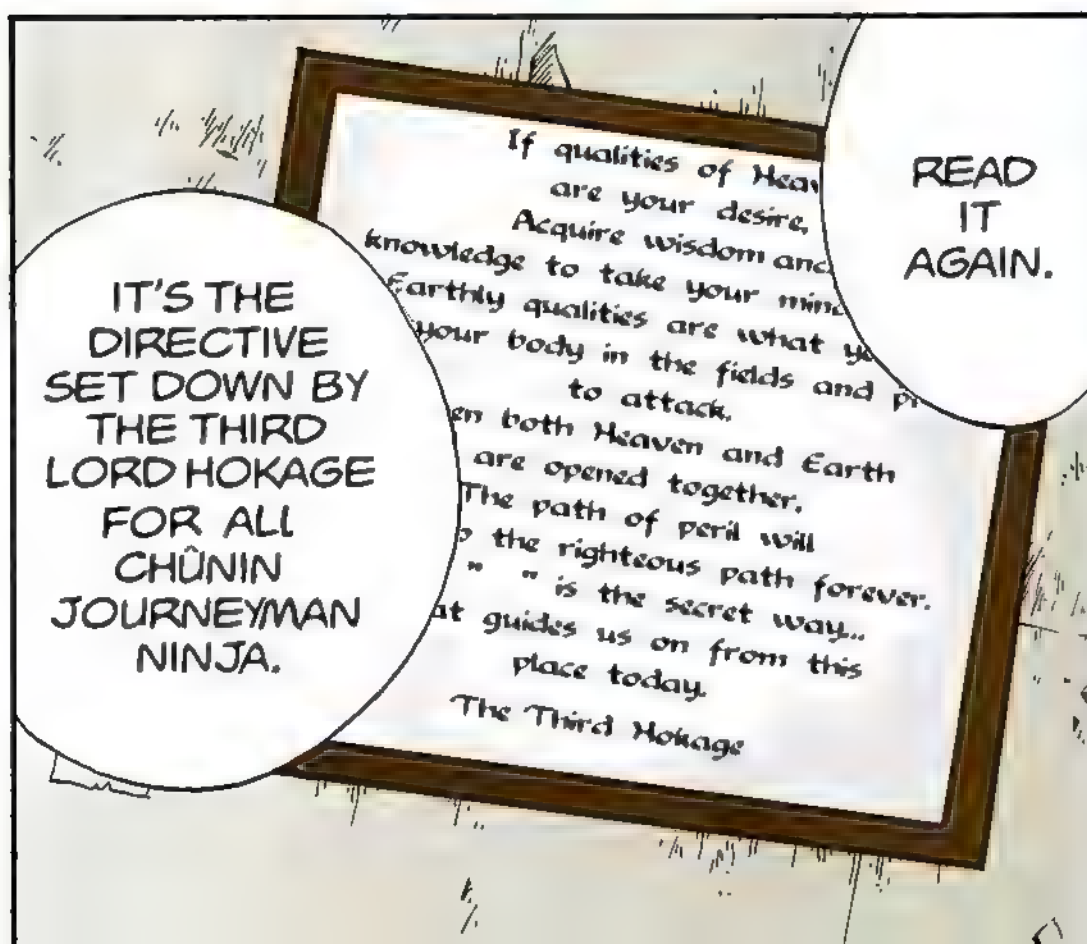
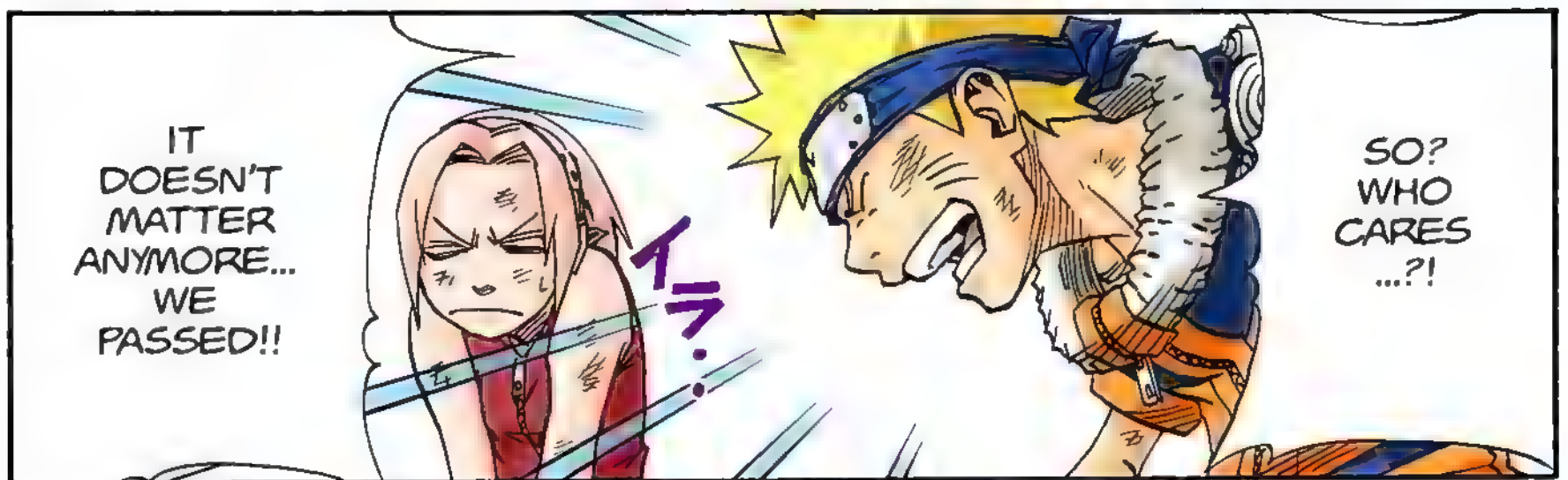
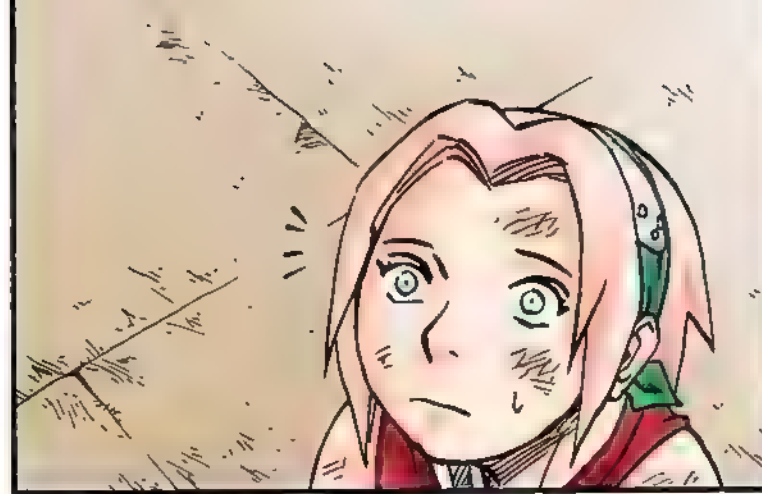






INNER SAKURA







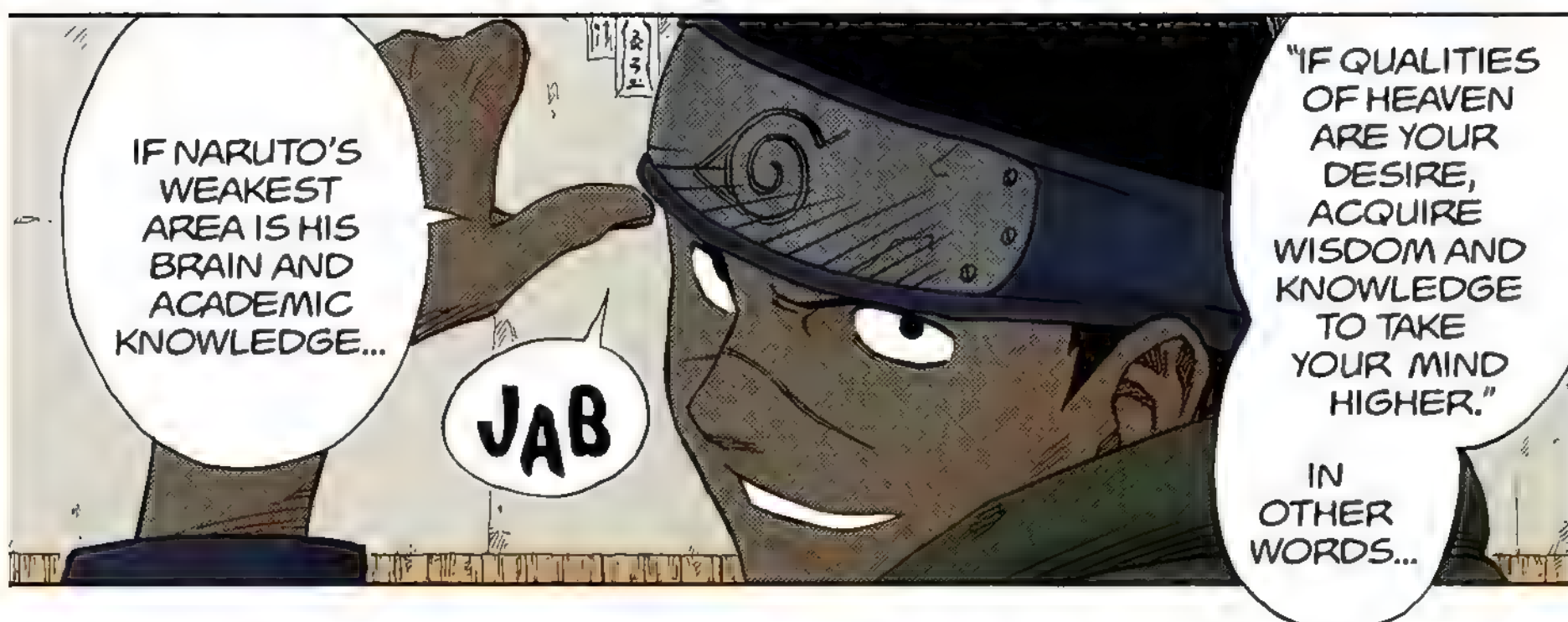
...AND
"EARTH"
REFERS TO THE
HUMAN
BODY.

THAT'S
RIGHT! IN
THE TEXT,
THE WORD
"HEAVEN"
REFERS TO THE
HUMAN
MIND...

HMMM...



"DIRECTIVE" ...?!



IF NARUTO'S
WEAKEST
AREA IS HIS
BRAIN AND
ACADEMIC
KNOWLEDGE...

JAB

"IF QUALITIES
OF HEAVEN
ARE YOUR
DESIRE,
ACQUIRE
WISDOM AND
KNOWLEDGE
TO TAKE
YOUR MIND
HIGHER."

IN
OTHER
WORDS...



...SHE
NEEDS
TO TRAIN
HARD AND
FIND THE
RICHES OF
PHYSICAL
STAMINA
AND SKILL.

IF
SAKURA'S
WEAK
POINT IS
WITH HER
LACK OF
STRENGTH
AND
POWER...

HEH
HEH...



AND...

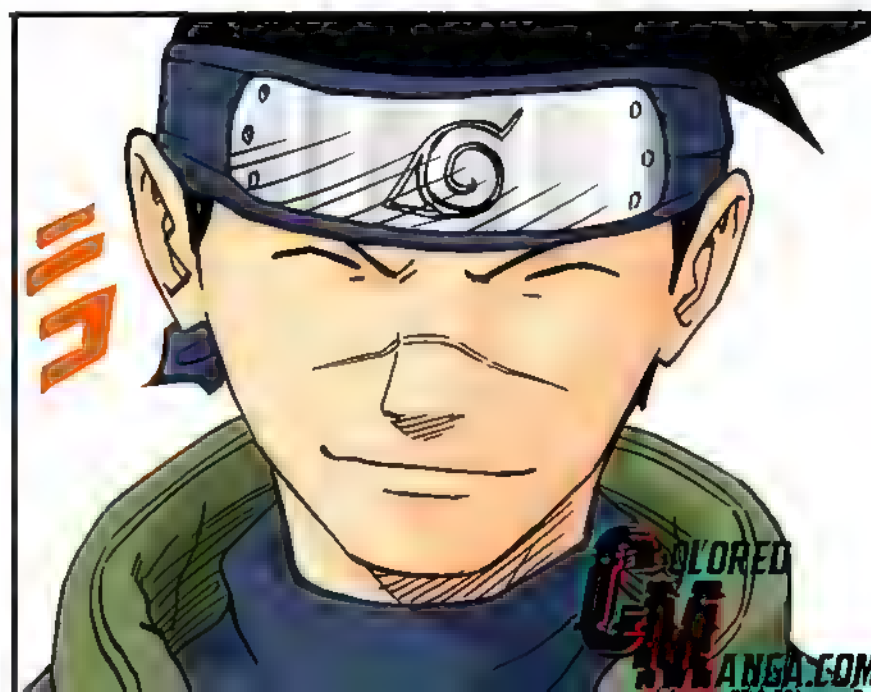
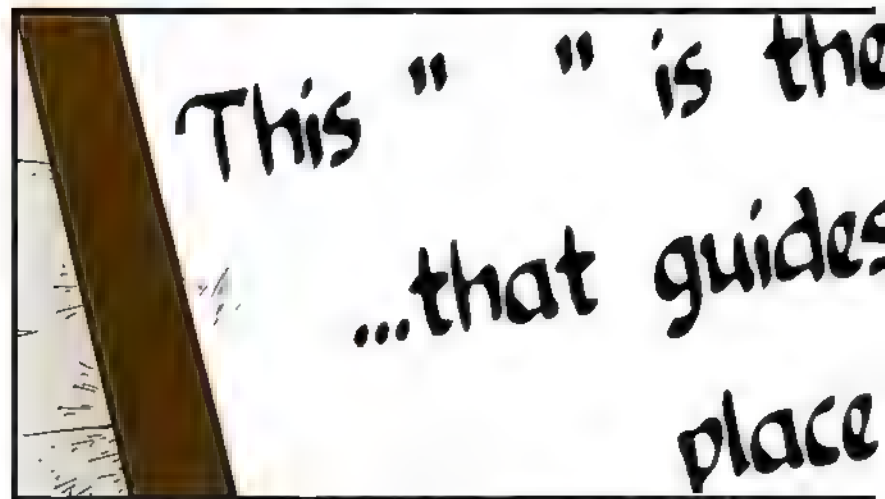
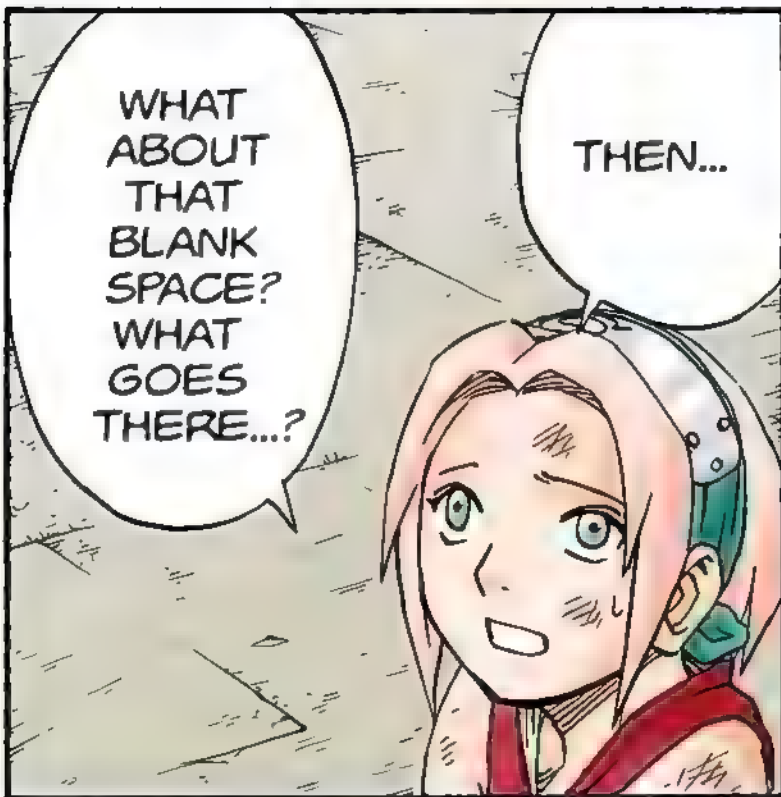
"IF EARTHLY
QUALITIES ARE
WHAT YOU LACK,
TRAIN YOUR BODY
IN THE FIELDS
AND PREPARE
TO ATTACK."



...HE'S GOT TO STUDY
HARD AND LEARN
THE PRINCIPLES THAT
WILL HELP HIM ON
HIS MISSIONS.

GET
OUTTA
MY
FACE!

HEE
HEE!





YOU ALL
PASSED
WITH
FLYING
COLORS.

THE
CHALLENGE
OF SEEING WHO
SURVIVED THESE
PAST FIVE DAYS
WAS A PART OF THE
EXAM DESIGNED
TO TEST THE
APPLICANTS'
BASIC CHŪNIN
ABILITIES.



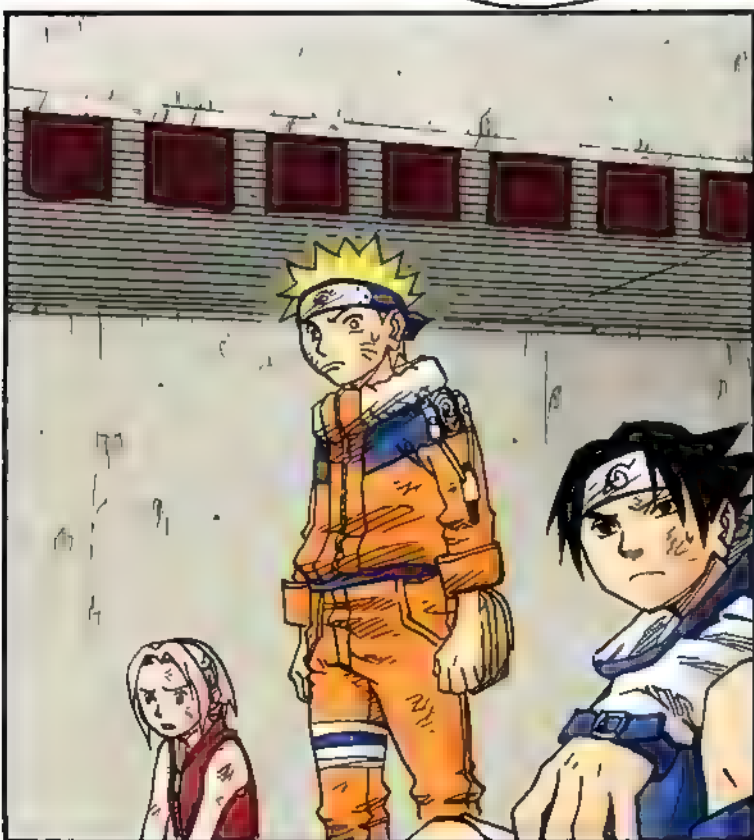
THEY
CAN ONLY
DO SO BY A
COMBINATION
OF INTELLIGENCE
AND STRENGTH.
I CAN'T EMPHASIZE
IT ENOUGH. LEARN
IT... LIVE IT. BELIEVE
IT FROM THE
BOTTOM OF YOUR
HEART!!

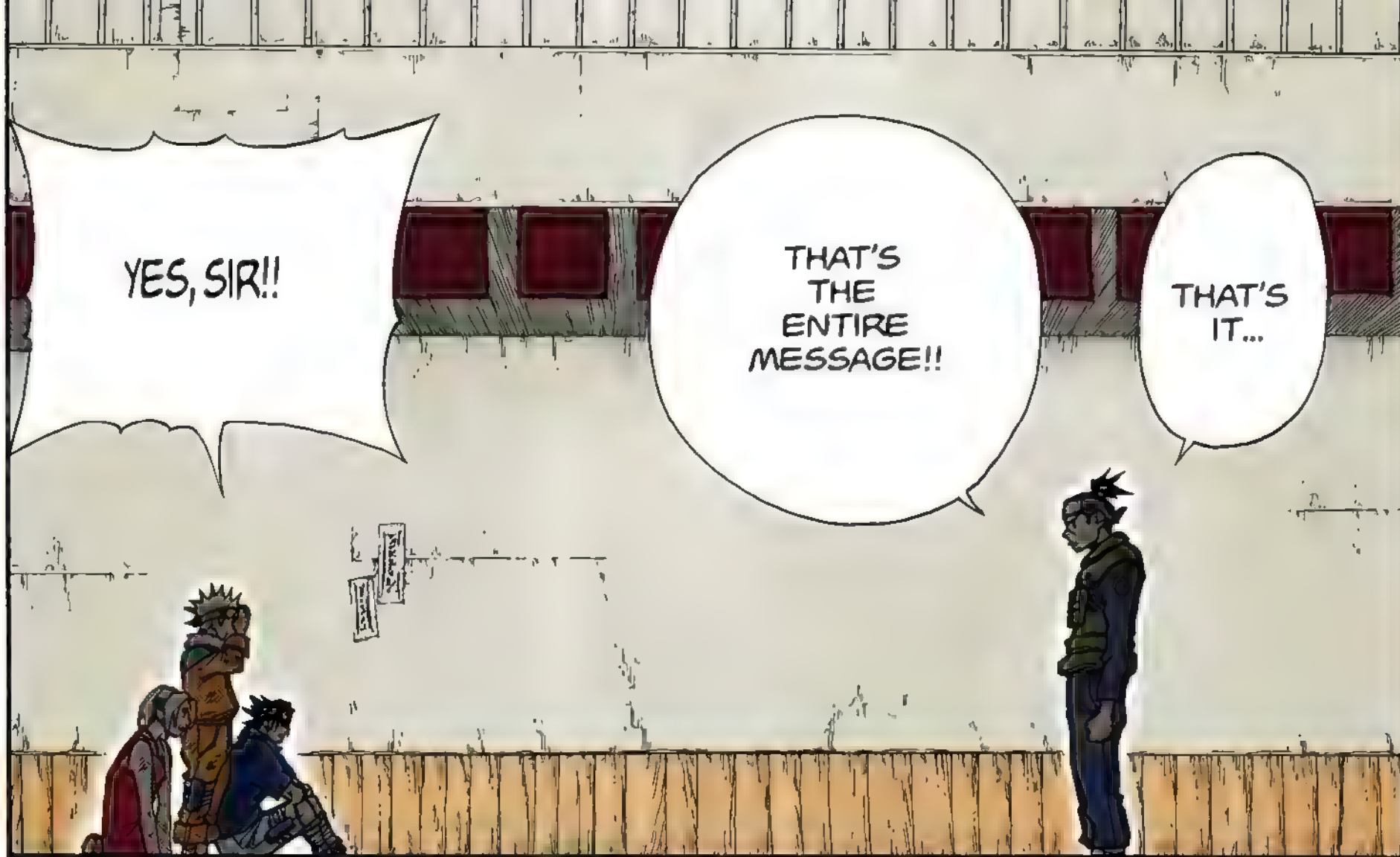


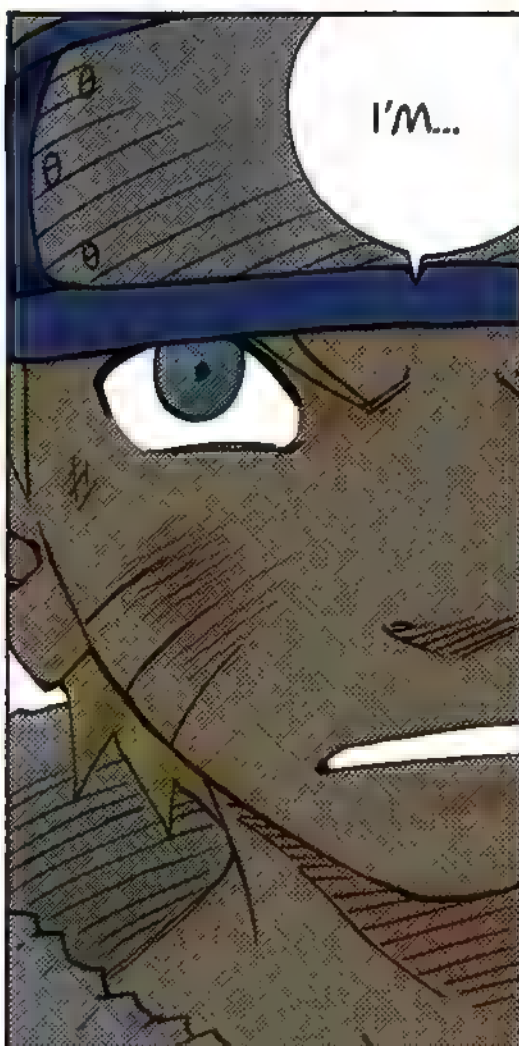
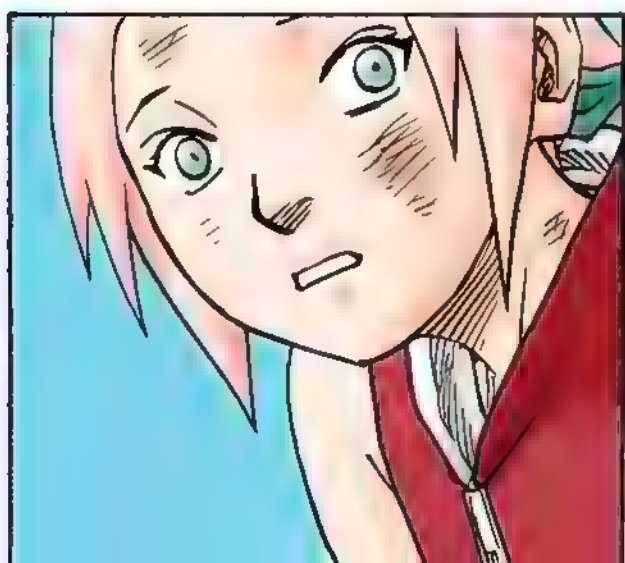
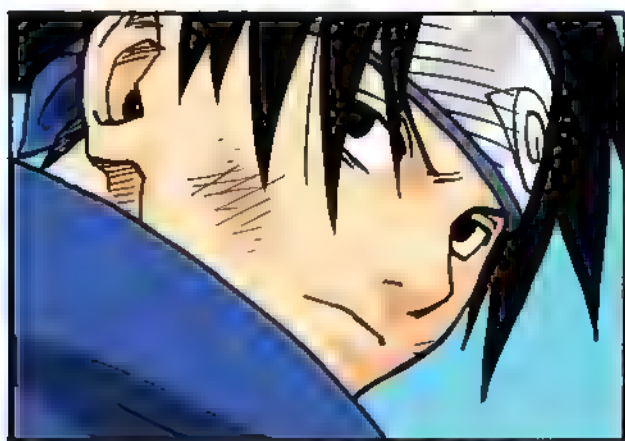
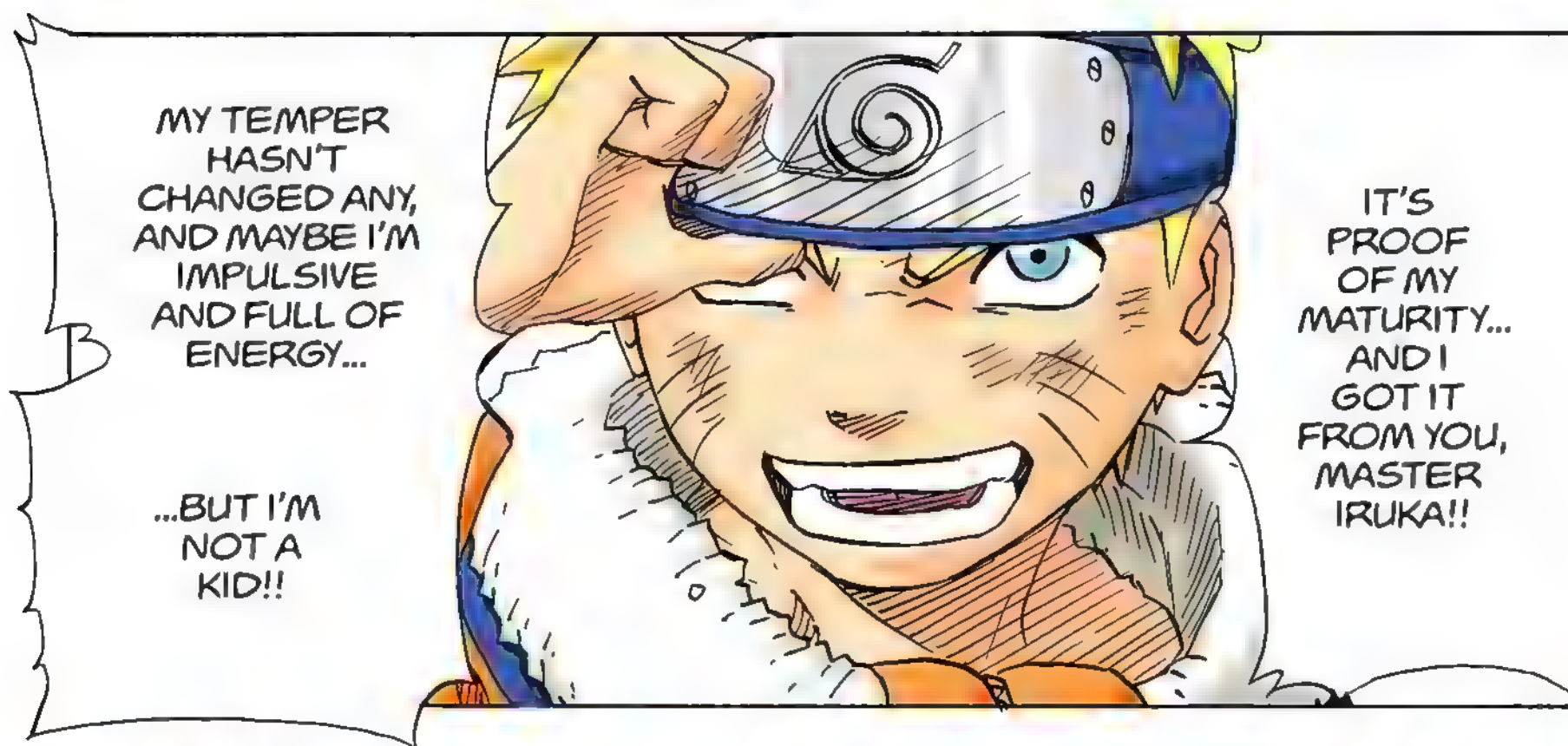
CHŪNIN
ARE THE
UNIT
COMMANDER
CLASS...
RESPONSIBLE
FOR LEADING
THEIR
TEAMS.

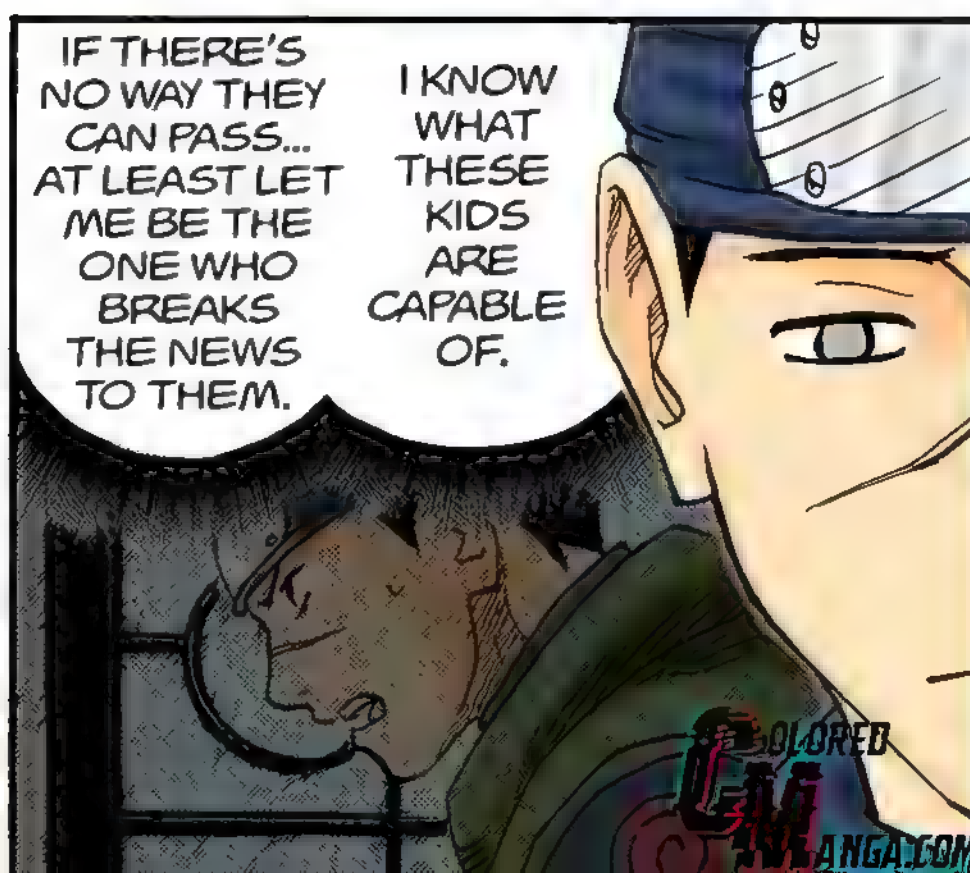
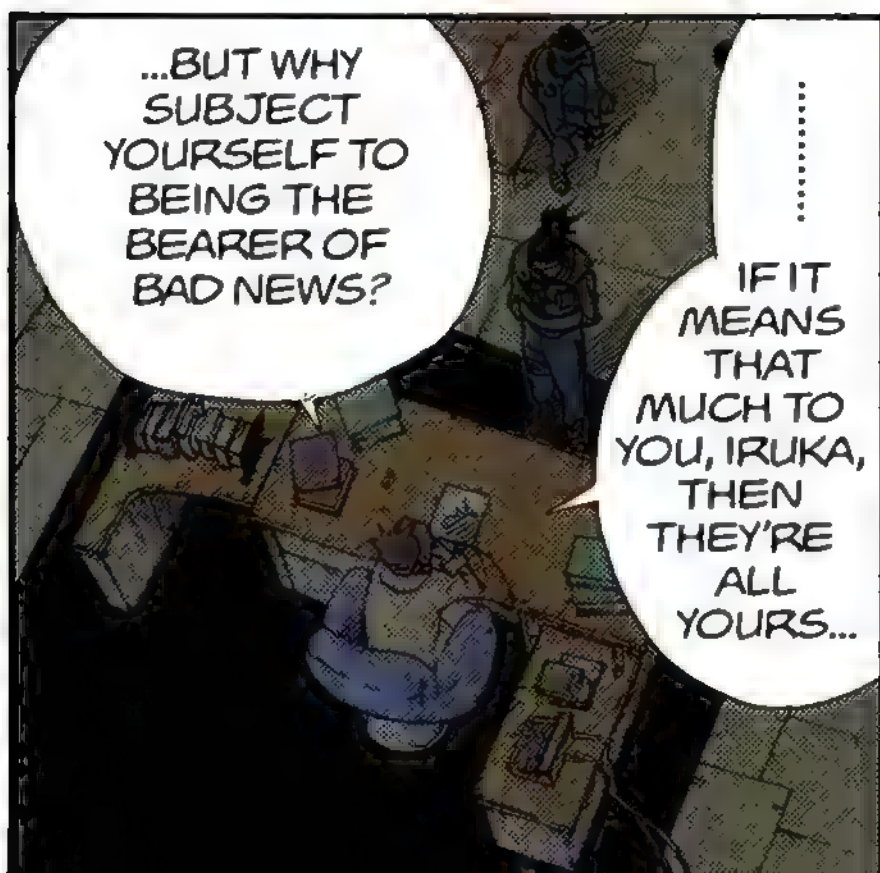
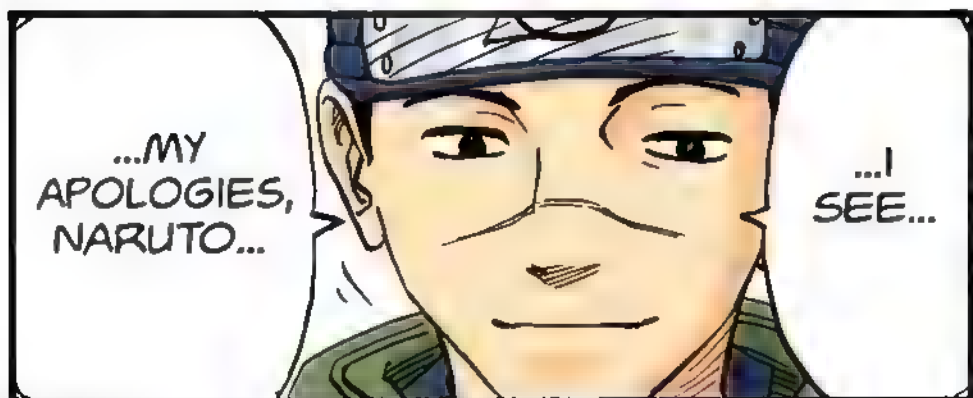
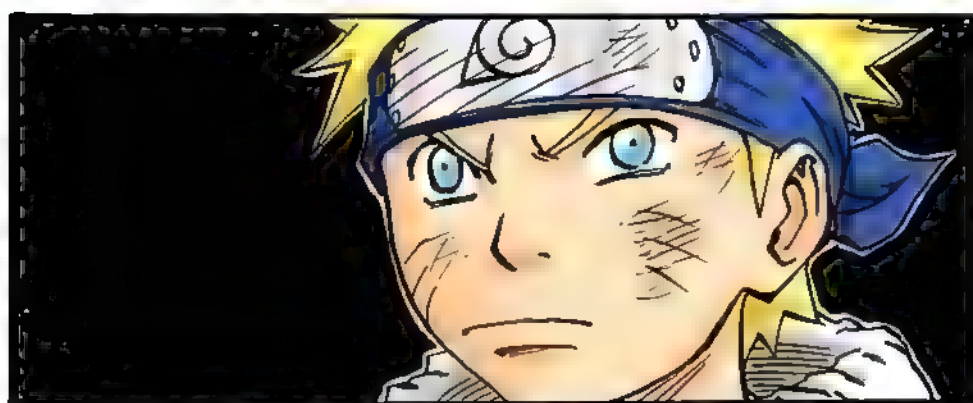


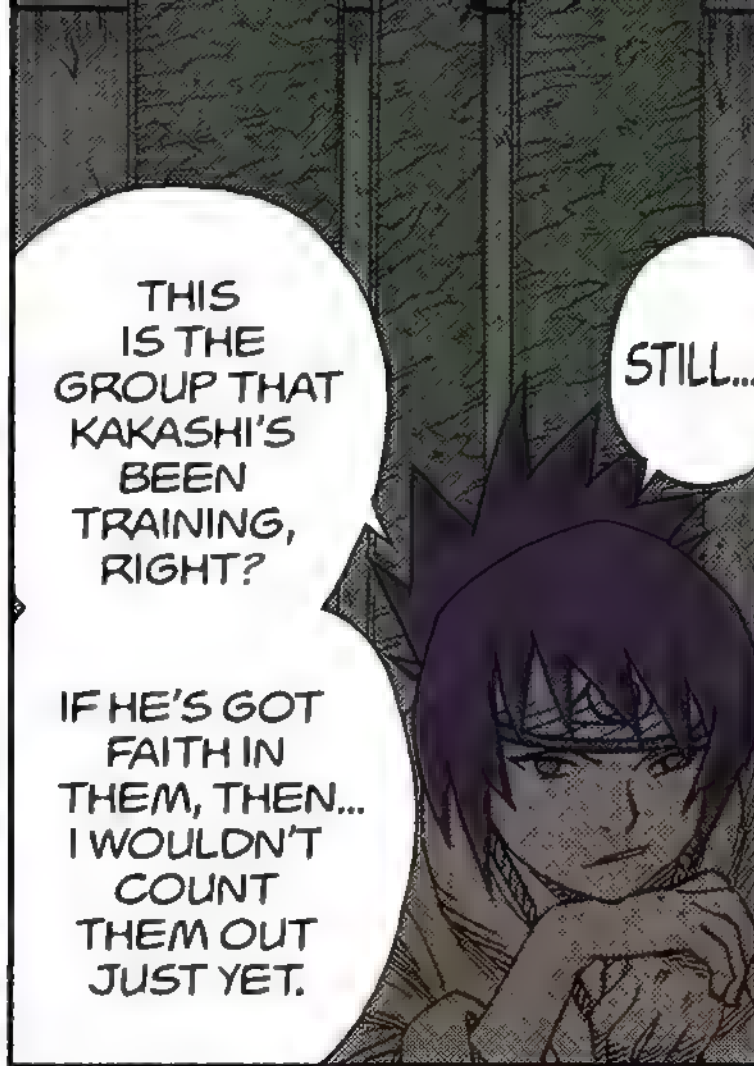
KEEP
THE CHŪNIN
DIRECTIVE
FOREMOST
IN YOUR MIND
AS YOU MOVE
ON TO THE
NEXT
EXAM.











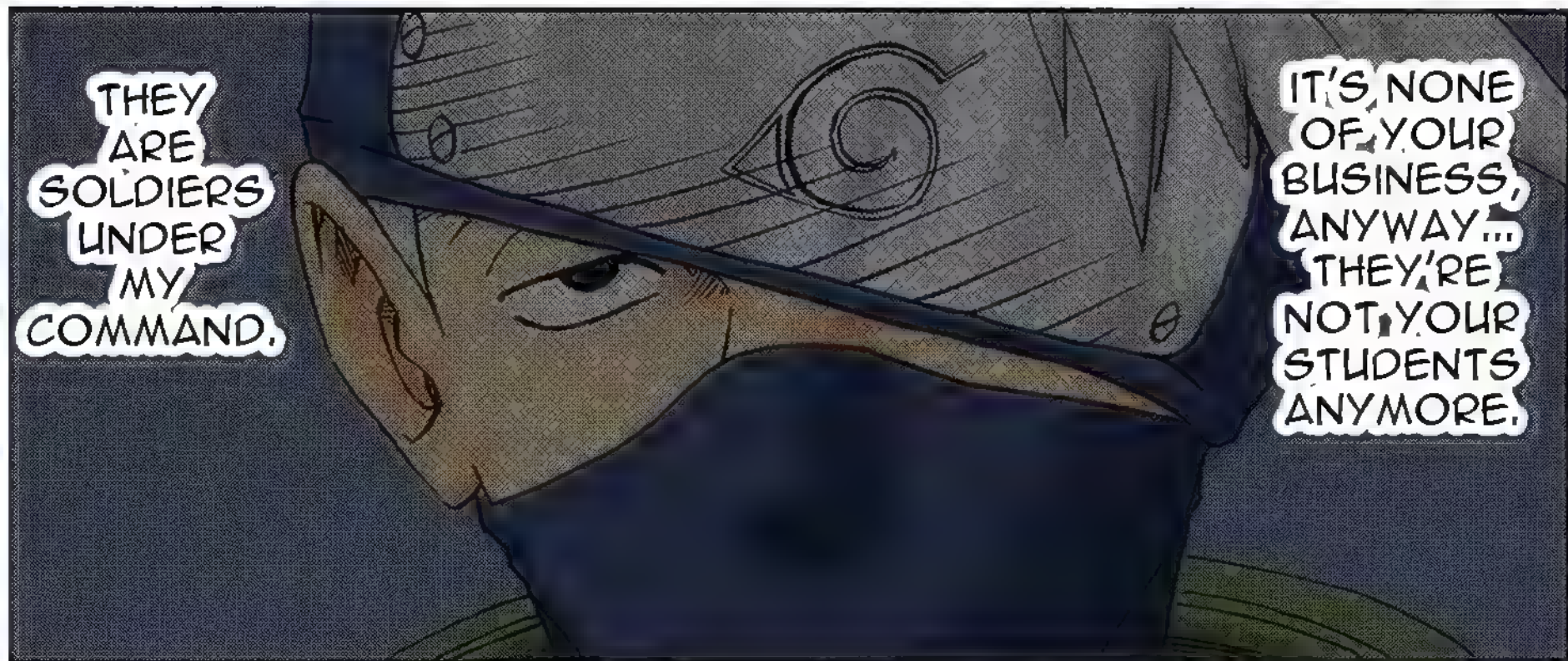
THIS IS THE GROUP THAT KAKASHI'S BEEN TRAINING, RIGHT?

STILL...

IF HE'S GOT FAITH IN THEM, THEN... I WOULDN'T COUNT THEM OUT JUST YET.



I REALLY APPRECIATE IT!



THEY ARE SOLDIERS UNDER MY COMMAND.

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, ANYWAY... THEY'RE NOT YOUR STUDENTS ANYMORE.

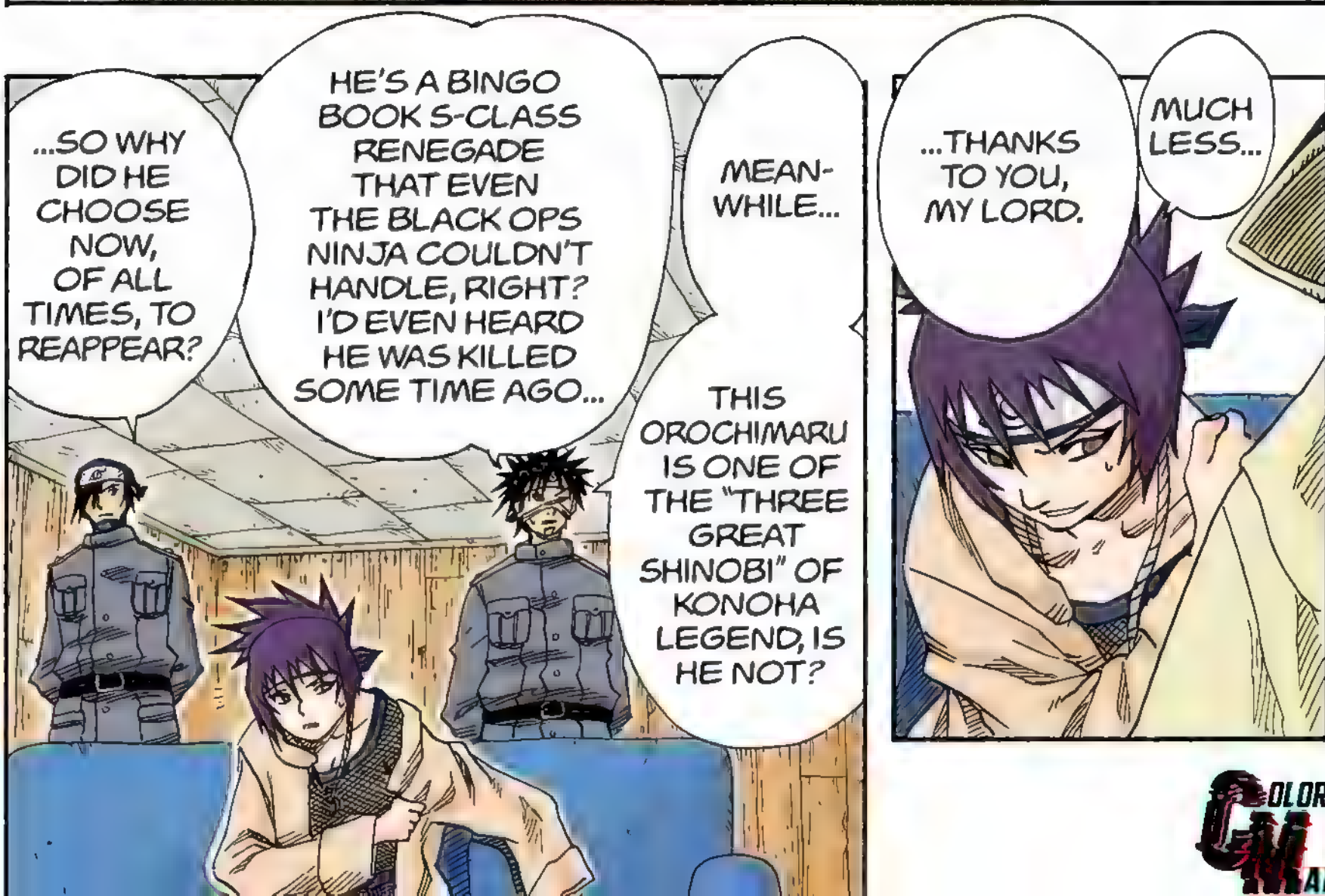
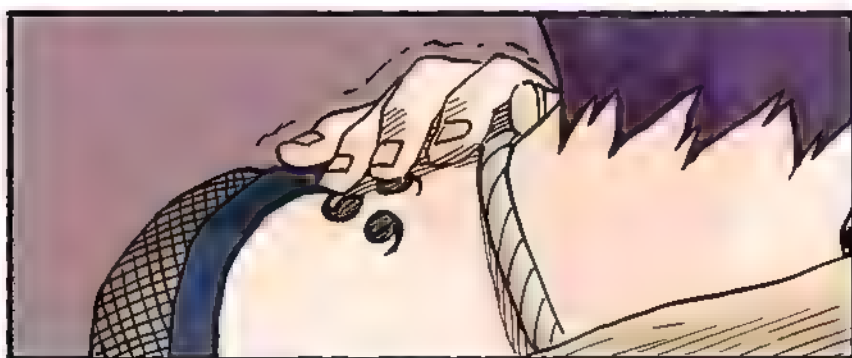
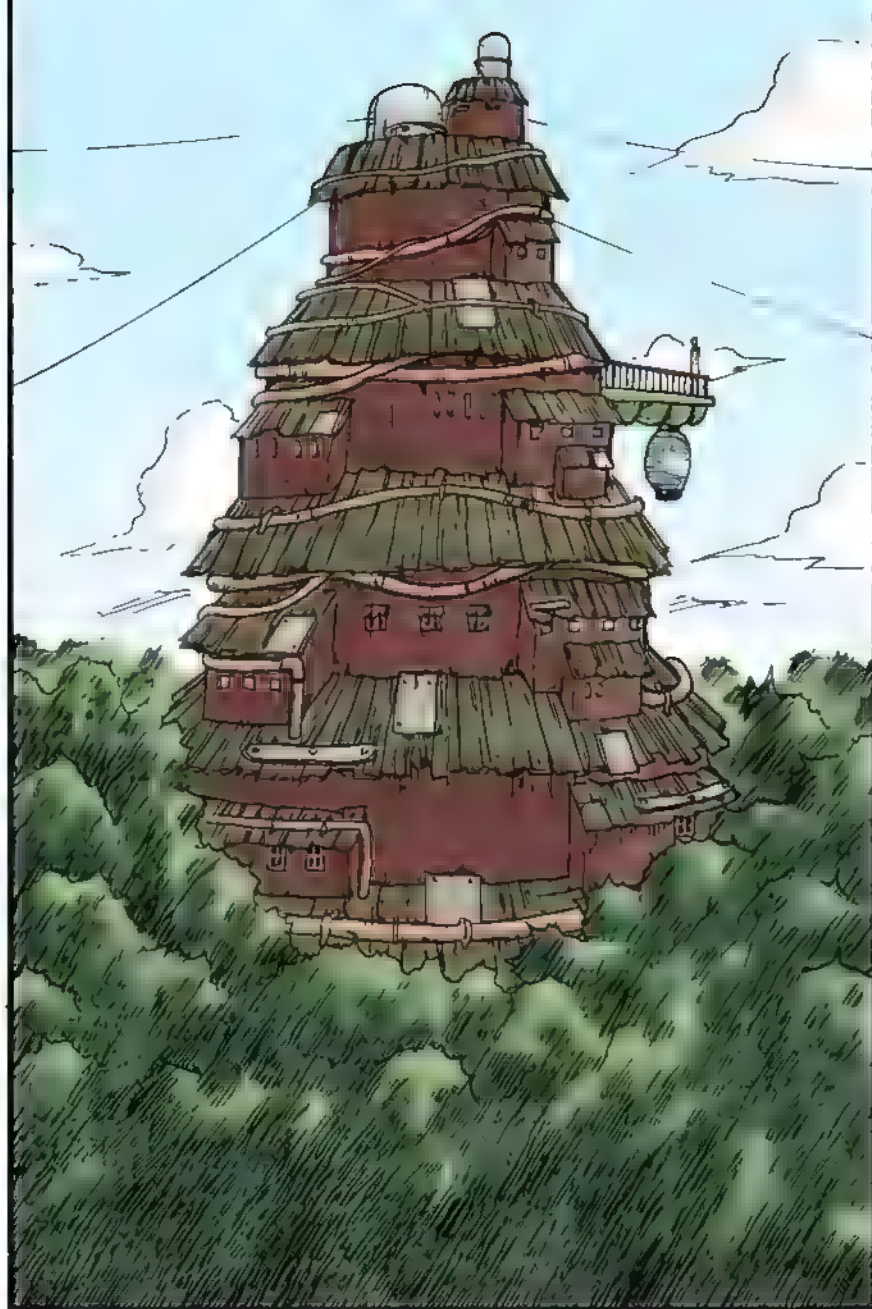
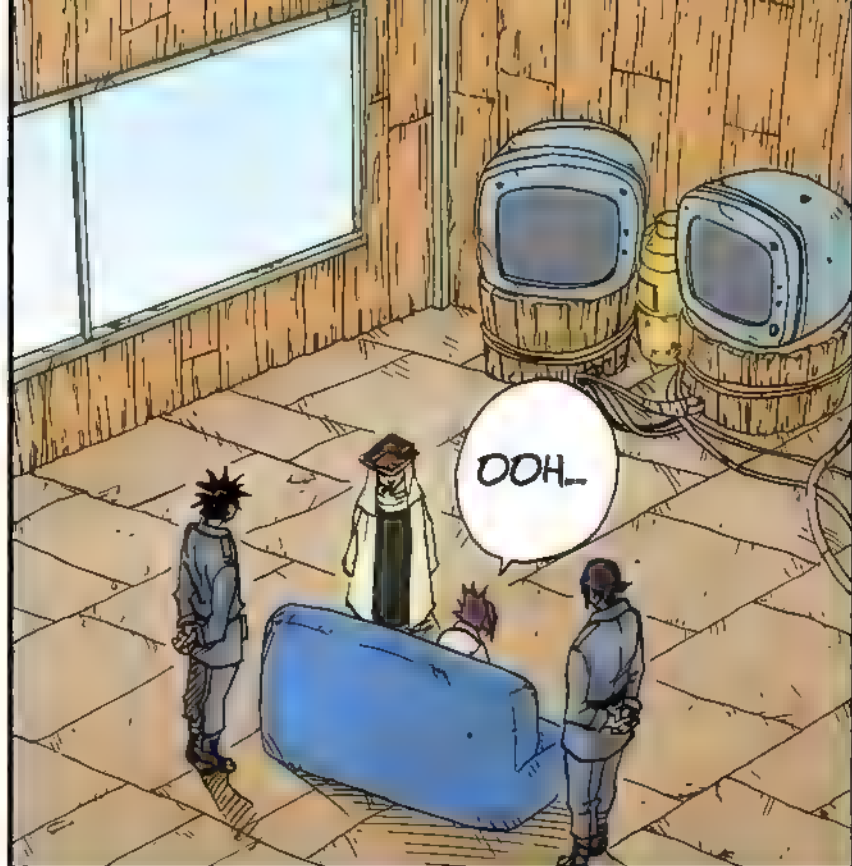


...WHO UNDERSTANDS JUST WHAT THESE KIDS CAN HANDLE.

WELL, KAKASHI... IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S YOU AND NOT ME...



HEH HEH...

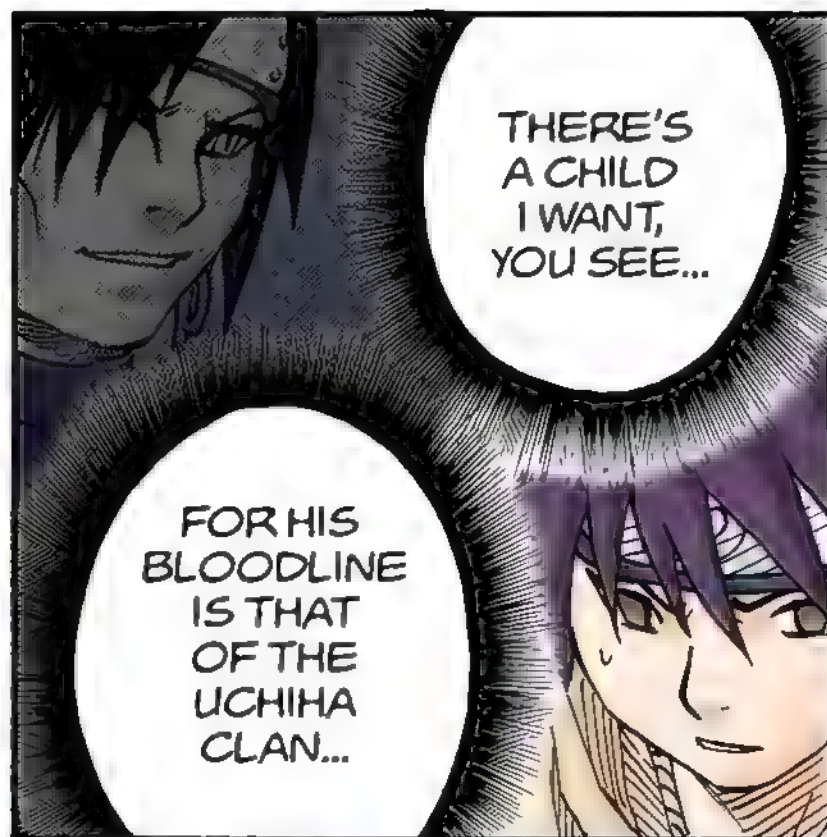




I THINK
WE CAN
ASSUME
HE HAS
COME
FOR
SASUKE.



PROB-
ABLY
HE--



THERE'S
A CHILD
I WANT,
YOU SEE...

FOR HIS
BLOODLINE
IS THAT
OF THE
UCHIHA
CLAN...



LADY
ANKO!!

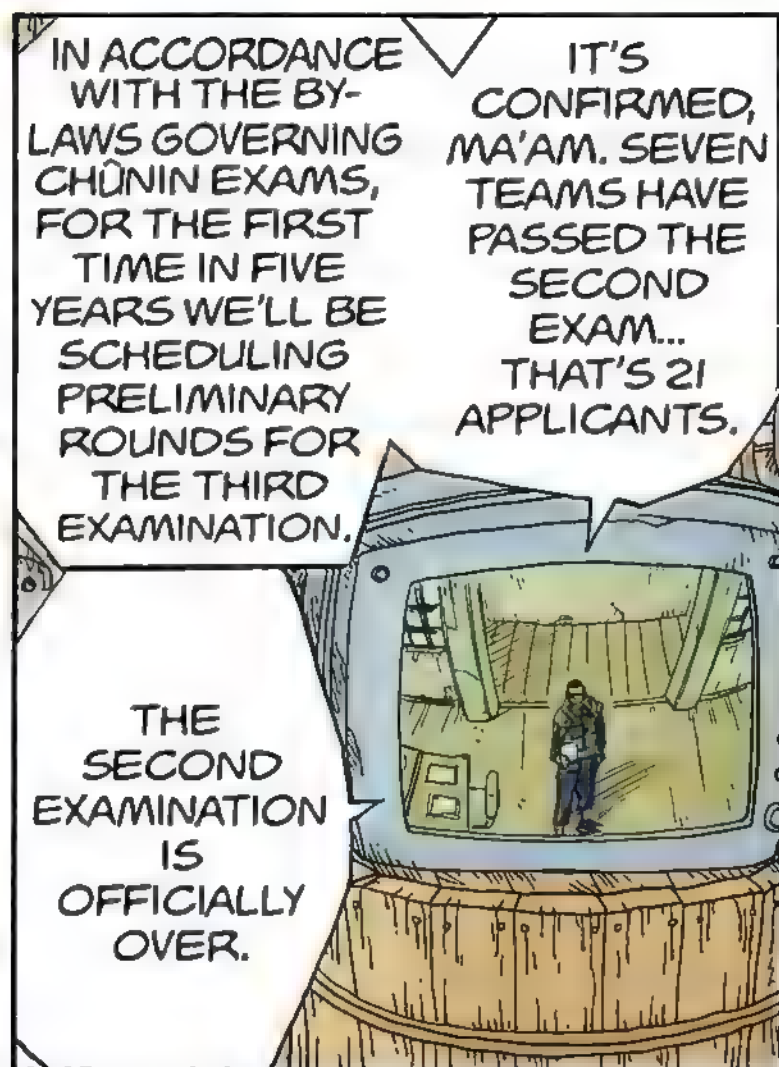
HUNH?!



...WHILE
KEEPING
A CLOSE
EYE ON
OROCHIMARU'S
MOVEMENTS,
OF
COURSE.

...IN ANY
CASE,
WE'LL
PROCEED
WITH THE
EXAMINATIONS
AS
PLANNED...

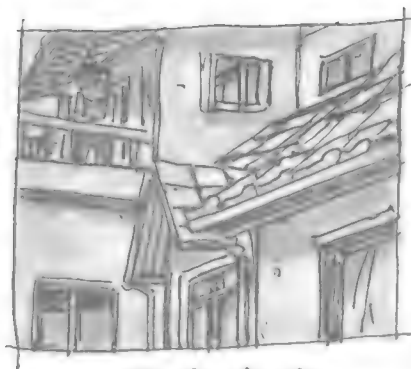
YES,
SIR!



IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE BY-
LAWS GOVERNING
CHŪNIN EXAMS,
FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN FIVE
YEARS WE'LL BE
SCHEDULING
PRELIMINARY
ROUNDS FOR
THE THIRD
EXAMINATION.

IT'S
CONFIRMED,
MA'AM. SEVEN
TEAMS HAVE
PASSED THE
SECOND
EXAM...
THAT'S 21
APPLICANTS.

THE
SECOND
EXAMINATION
IS
OFFICIALLY
OVER.



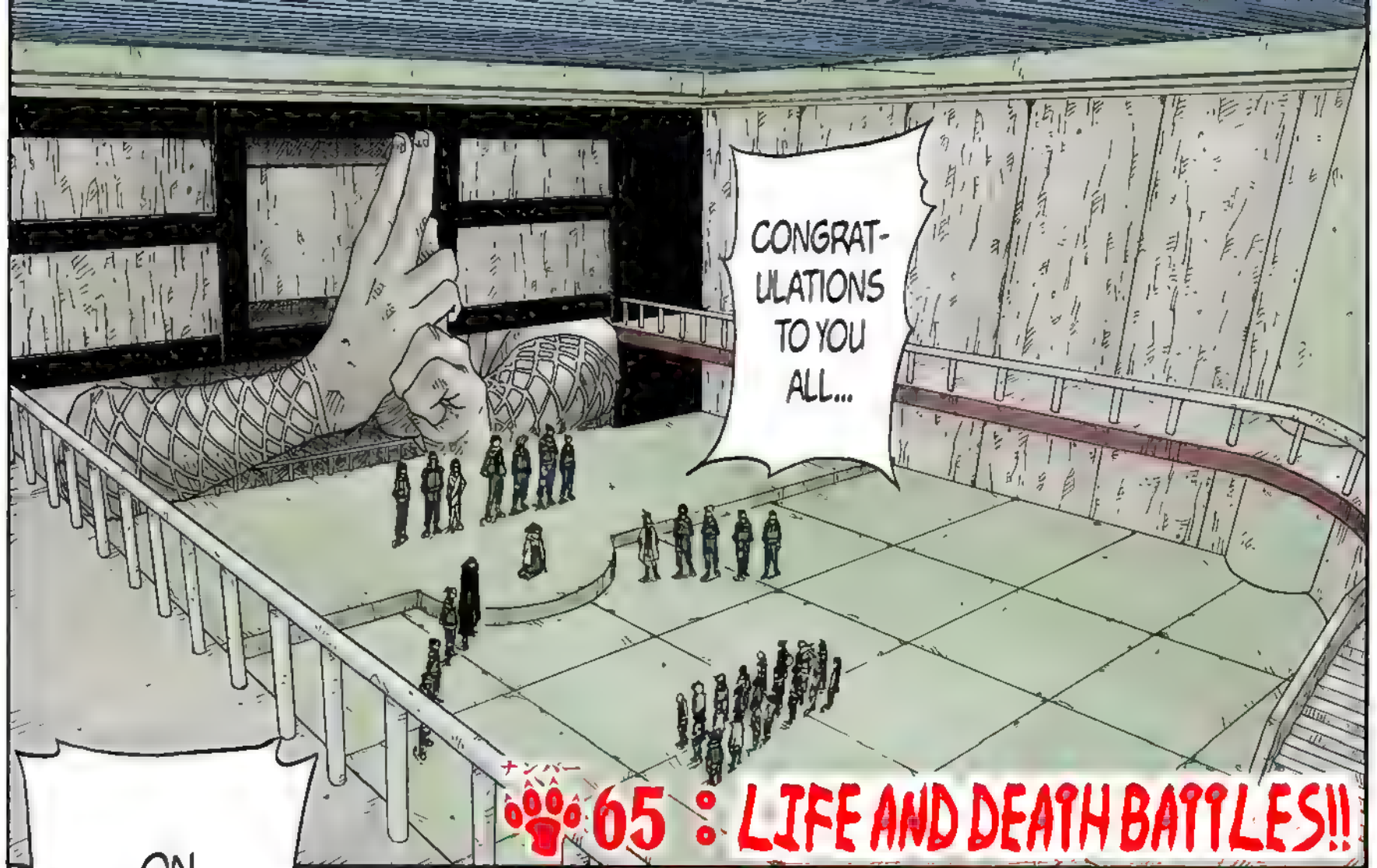
岸本 齊史

It's been about 2 years since *Naruto* began running in *Weekly Shonen Jump*... and I haven't been back to my parents' house once! While I've been away from home, they've totally remodeled the place, and apparently there's not even a trace left of my shabby, memory-filled room. When I heard that, I got a little sad... Time just keeps flowing by...

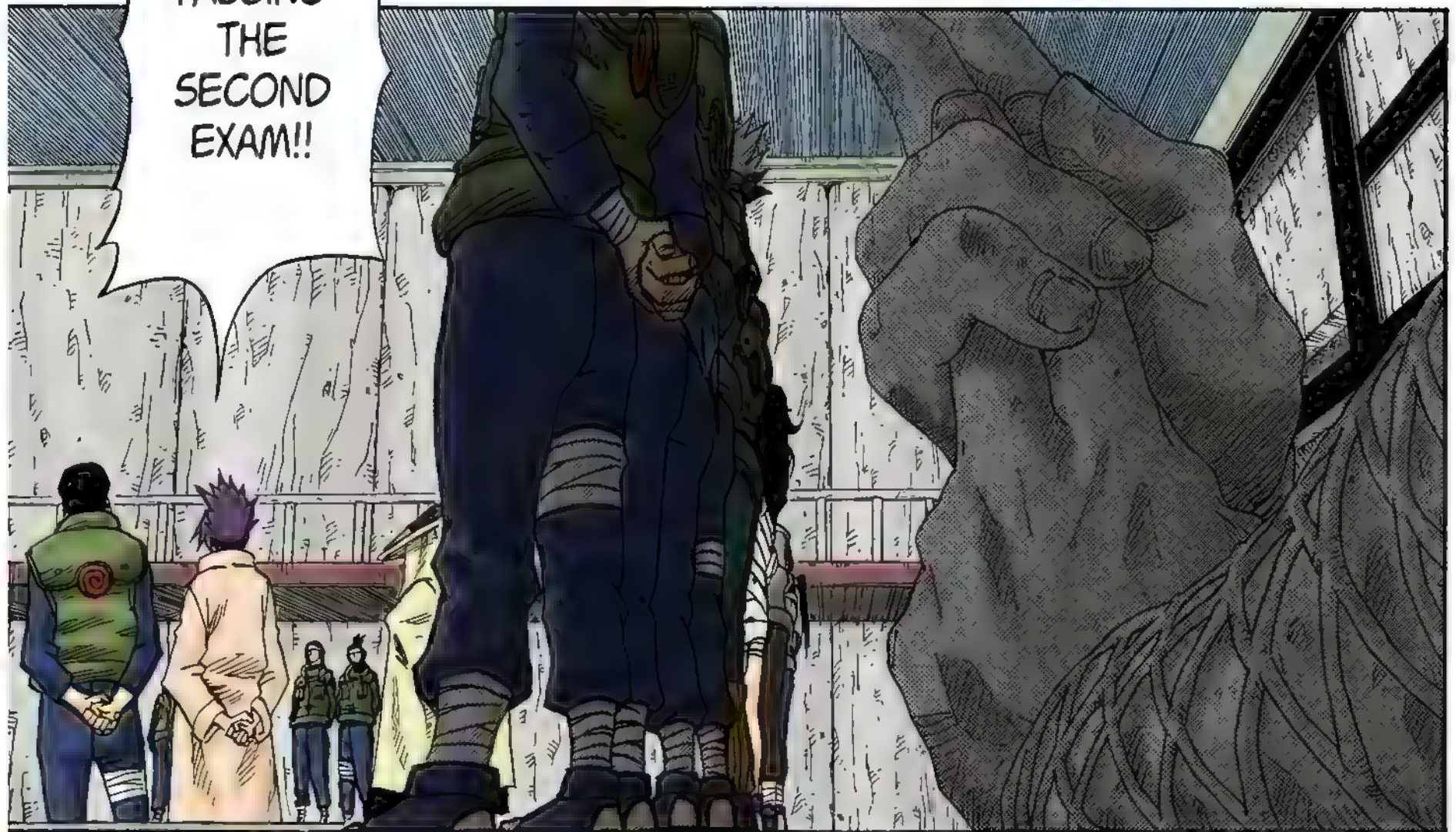
—Masashi Kishimoto, 2001

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.





...ON
PASSING
THE
SECOND
EXAM!!



I SAID I
WOULD PARE
THEIR NUMBERS
DOWN TO
LESS THAN HALF,
BUT REALLY I WAS
ONLY EXPECTING
A SINGLE DIGIT
FIGURE...

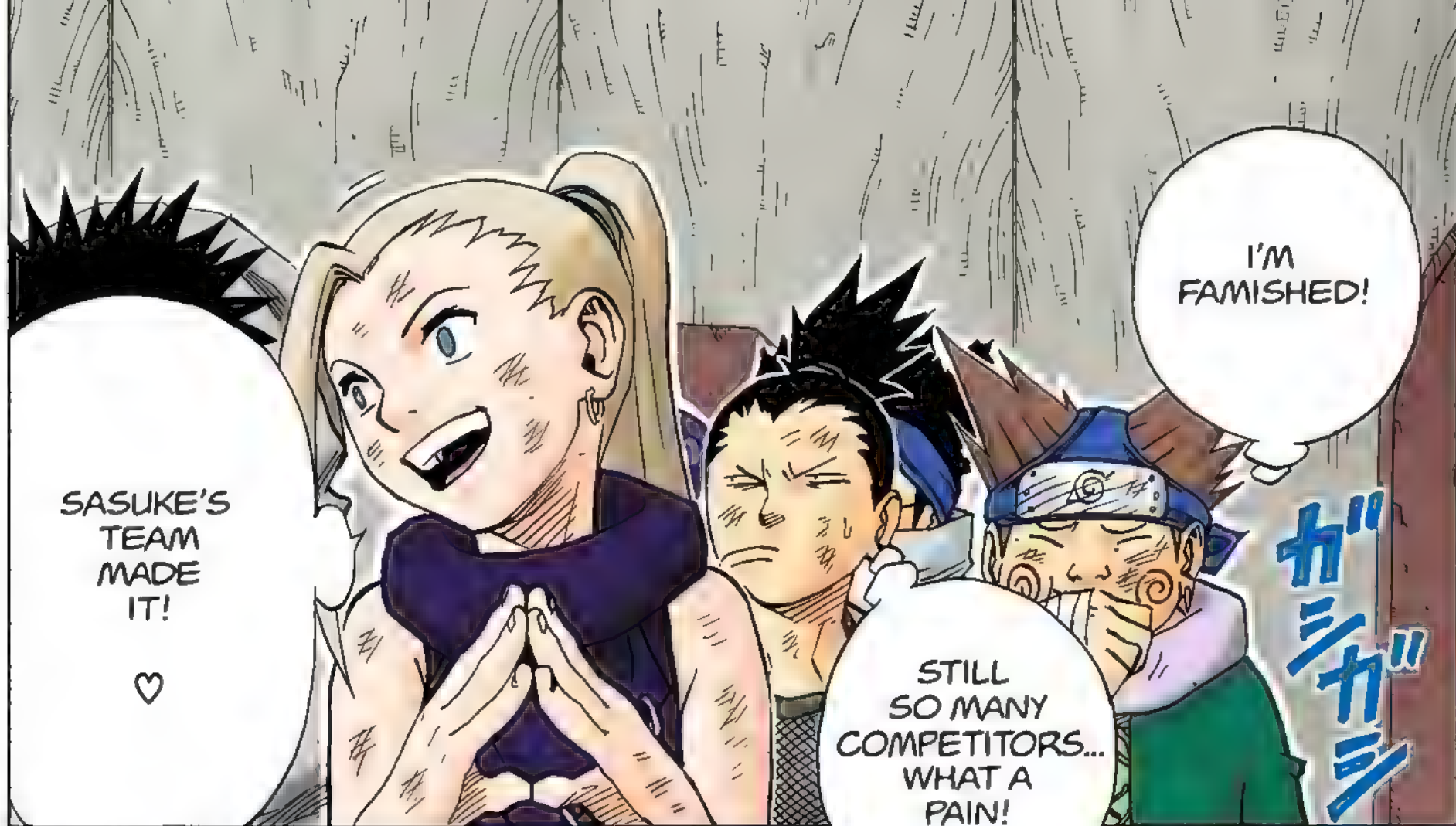
HEH...
WE STARTED
WITH 78
APPLICANTS...
IT'S AMAZING
THAT 21 OF
THEM ACTUALLY
MADE IT.



65 :

LIFE AND DEATH BATTLES!!





I'M FAMISHED!

SASUKE'S TEAM MADE IT!



STILL SO MANY COMPETITORS... WHAT A PAIN!

ガシガシ



YOUR STUDENTS MADE AN IMPRESSIVE SHOWING! I WONDER HOW MUCH OF IT WAS DUMB LUCK...

...NOT THAT IT MATTERS. MY TEAM IS BOUND TO KNOCK THEM OUT IN THE NEXT ROUND.



YOU ALWAYS DID TRY TO GET UNDER MY SKIN WITH YOUR ALOOF ACT.

HEH... GOOD ONE... AS ANNOYING AS EVER, KAKASHI...



I'M SORRY... DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?



! AH, WELL... SOMETIMES BEING YOUNG IS ALL ABOUT LEARNING TO DEAL WITH HEART-BREAK, EH, KAKASHI?

AT THE NEXT LEVEL, IT WILL BE ALL ABOUT THEIR ABILITIES... OR LACK THEREOF.



HE'S
THE
MAN!

NONE OF
THE OTHER
TEACHERS
ARE AS
COOL AS
MASTER GUY.
NOT EVEN
CLOSE!!

MAN,
HE BEATS
MASTER GUY
HANDS
DOWN IN
THE
LOOKS
DEPARTMENT...

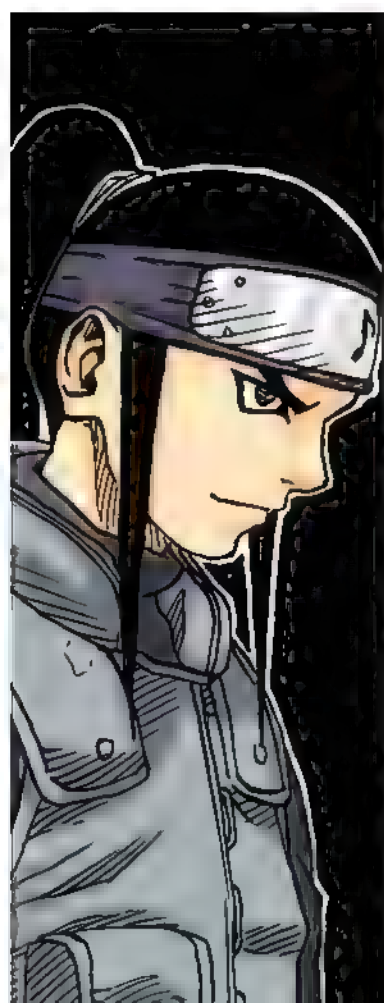
WOW,
SO
THAT'S
MASTER
GUY'S
ARCHRIVAL...



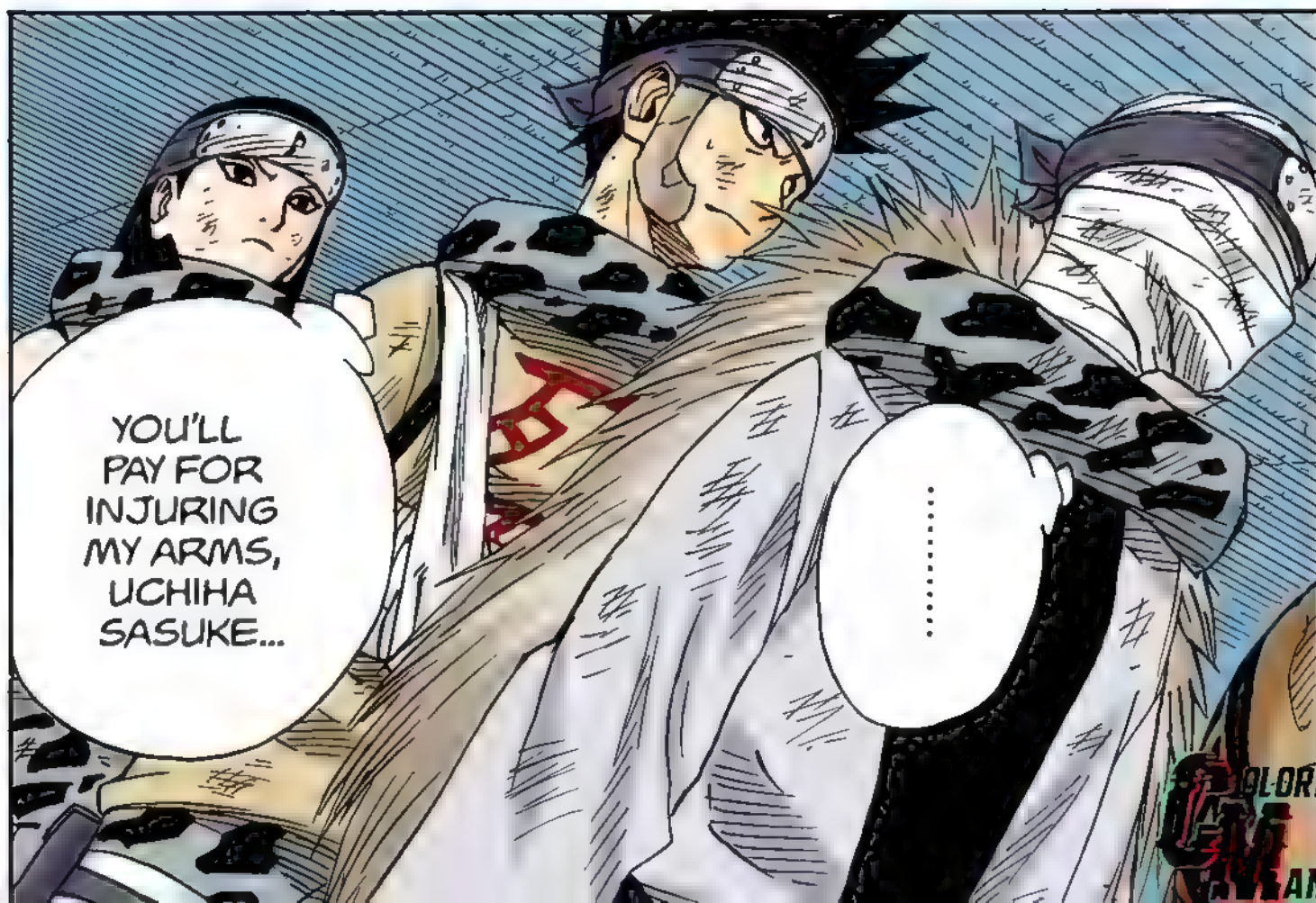
SO NOW
ONLY THE REAL
PLAYERS
ARE LEFT.

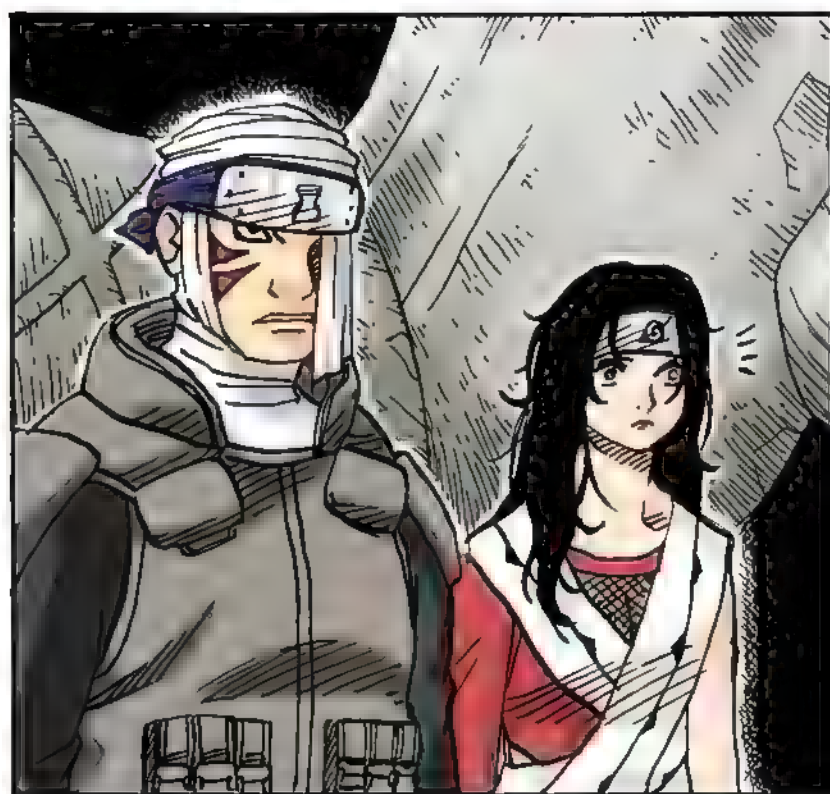
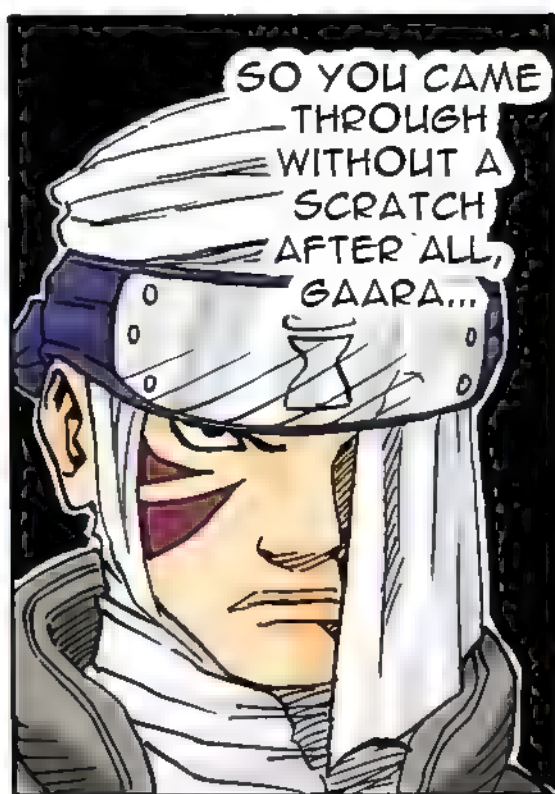
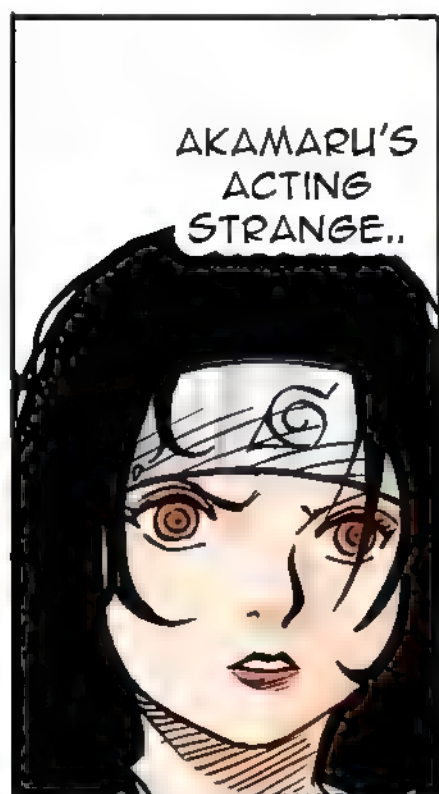
AND
UCHIHA
SASUKE
MADE IT,
EH...?

JUST WAIT,
MASTER GUY!
I'LL MAKE
YOU PROUD!!



YOU'LL
PAY FOR
INJURING
MY ARMS,
UCHIHA
SASUKE...







NARUTO
PASSED,
TOO...
I'M SO
GLAD!
YAY!

THOSE
GUYS
FROM
THE SAND
VILLAGE...

-WHINE-



IT'S
LIKE A
DREAM
TEAM!

OLD MAN HOKAGE,
MASTER IRUKA,
MASTER KAKASHI,
AND EVEN THAT
MEGA-BROWS
GUY ARE ALL
GATHERED
TOGETHER!

HEY!
CHECK
IT
OUT!

WHAT THE...?!
ALL OF THE
APPLICANTS
FROM
KONOH
ARE HERE!



AND EVEN
MORE
ASTOUNDING
THAT THE
MAJORITY
OF THE
SURVIVORS
WERE
CULLED
FROM
THE RANKS
OF THE
MOST RAW
RECRUITS.

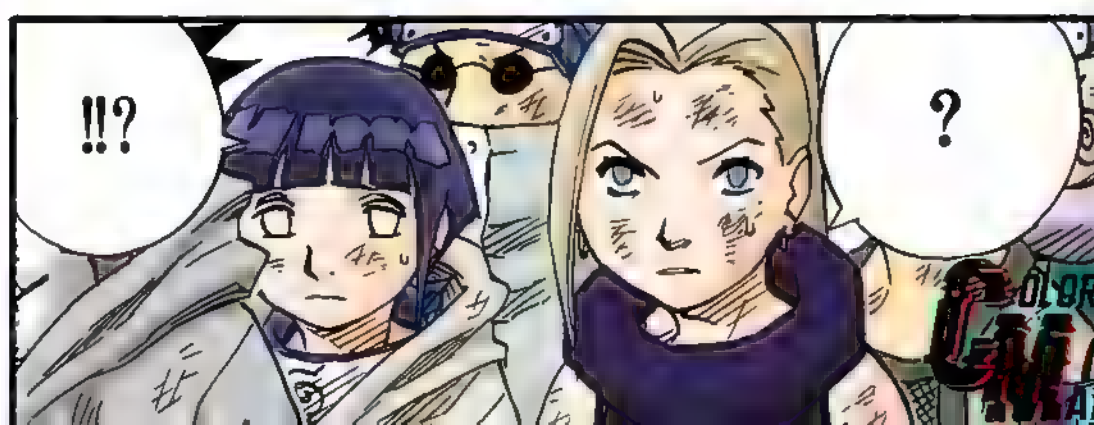
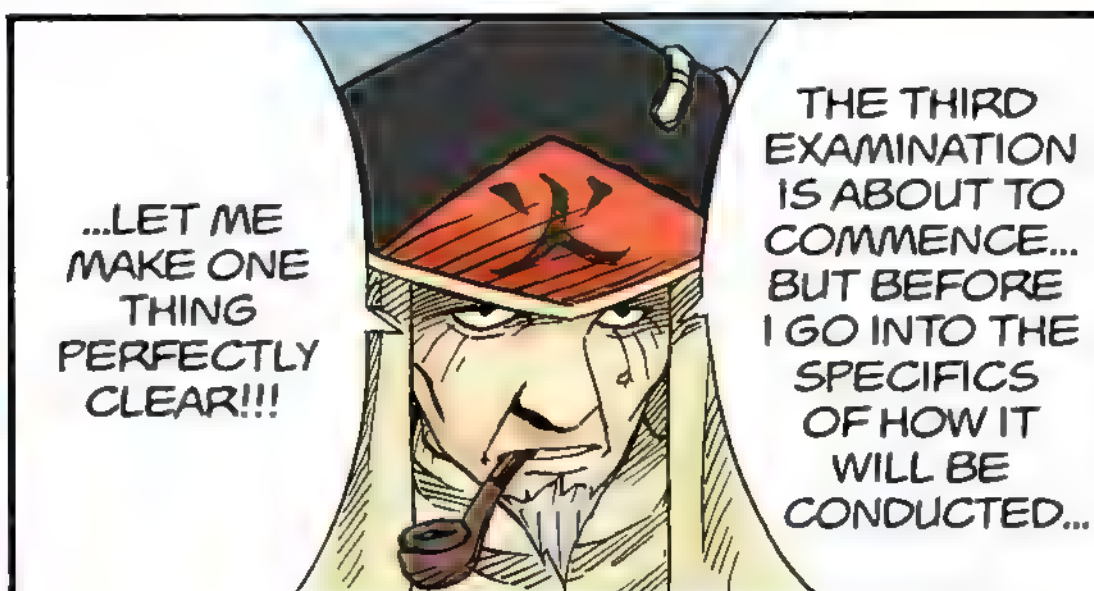
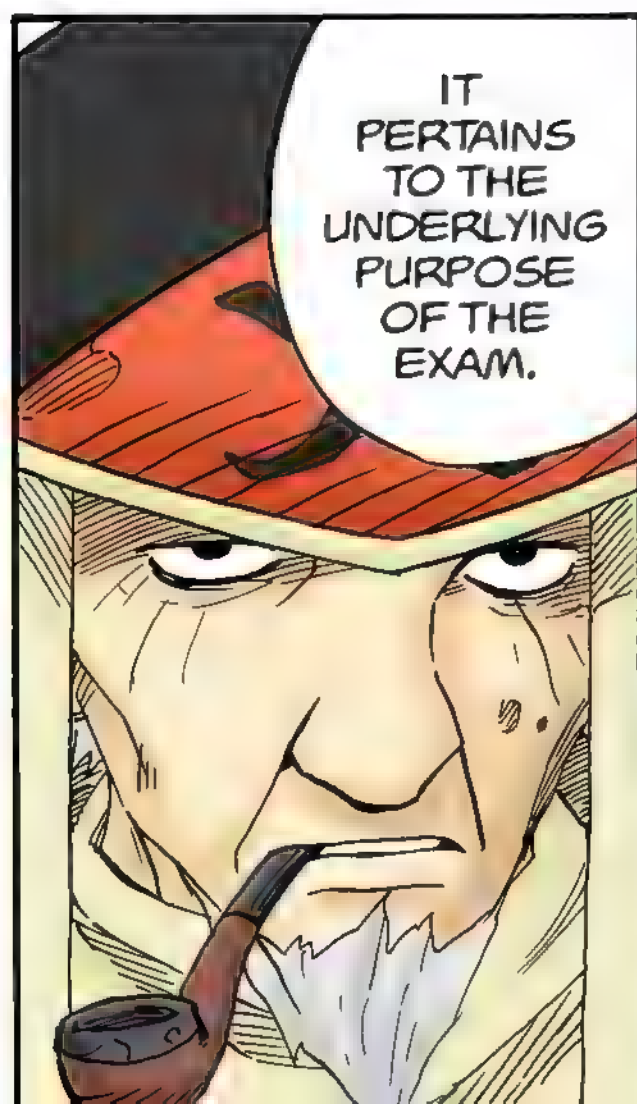
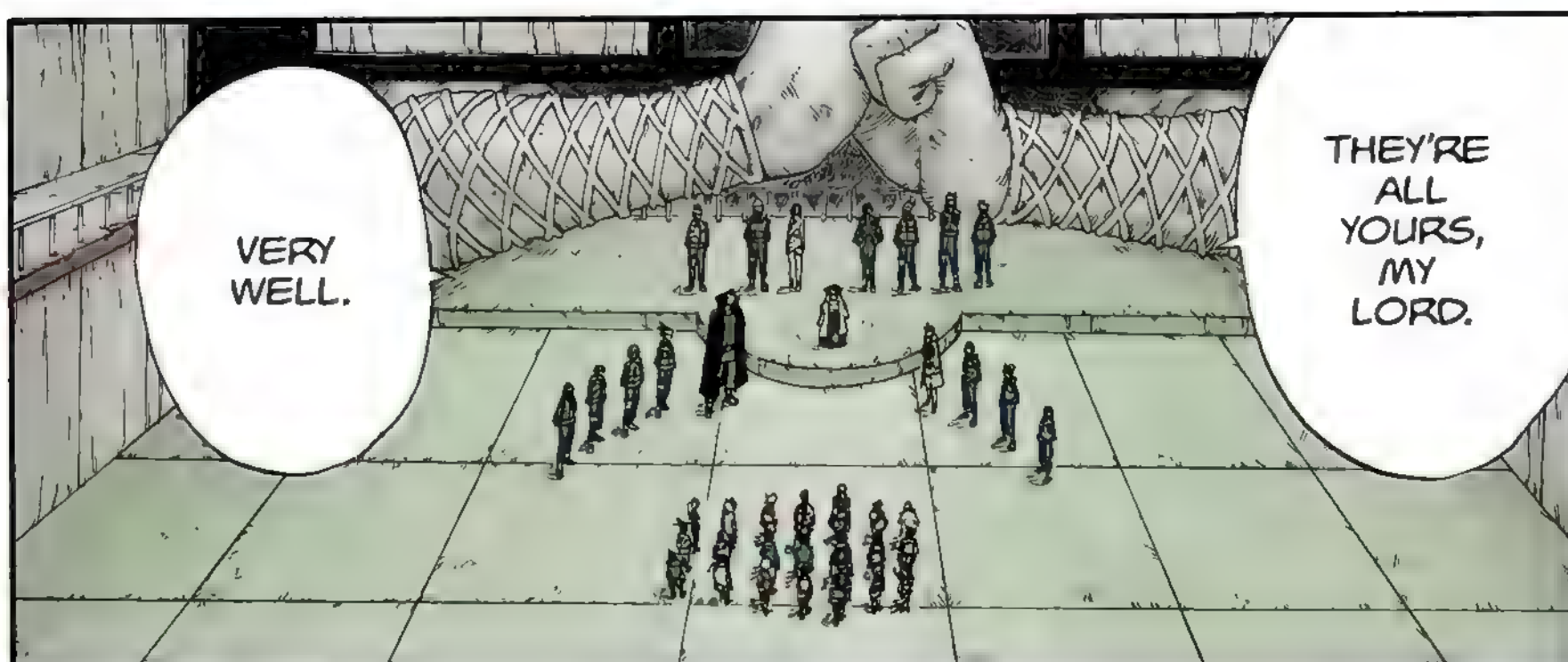
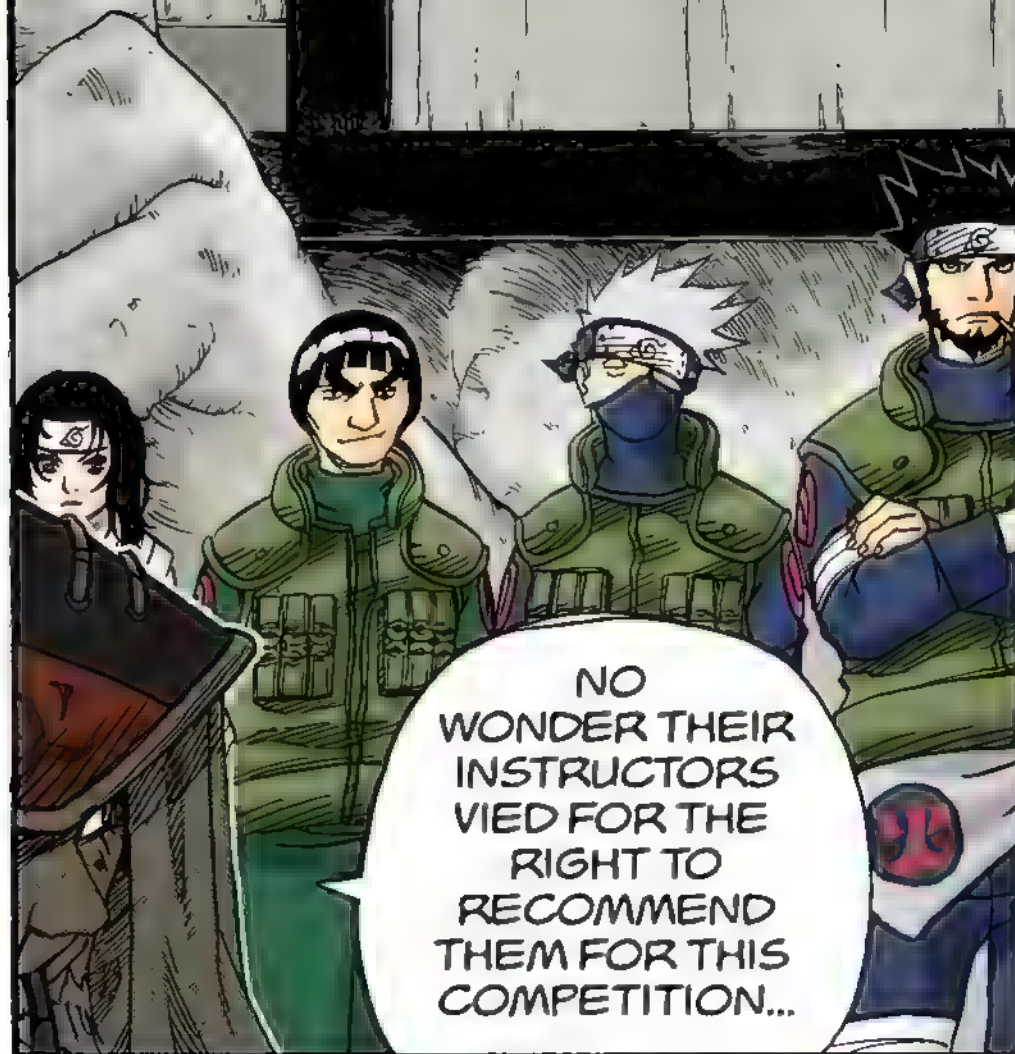
IT'S
ASTONISHING
THAT SO MANY
OF THEM
SURVIVED...

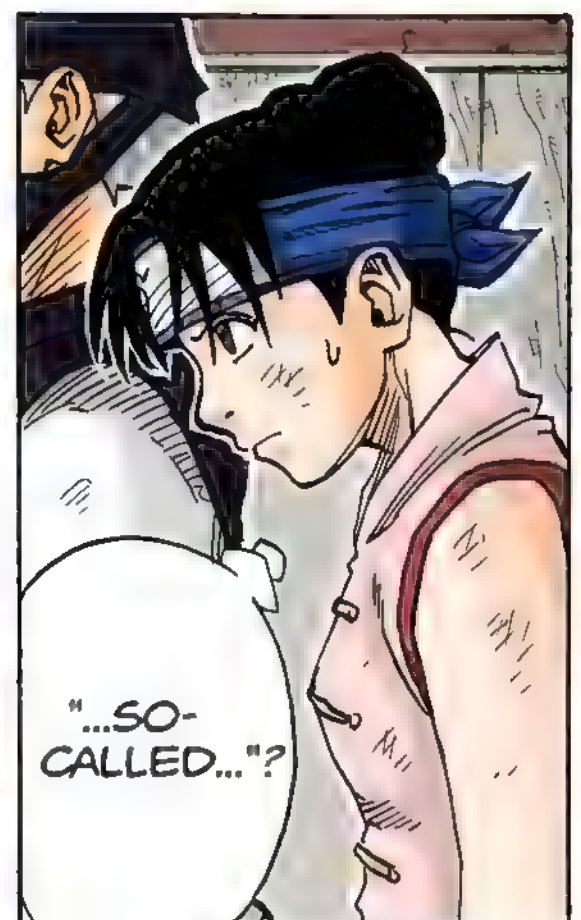
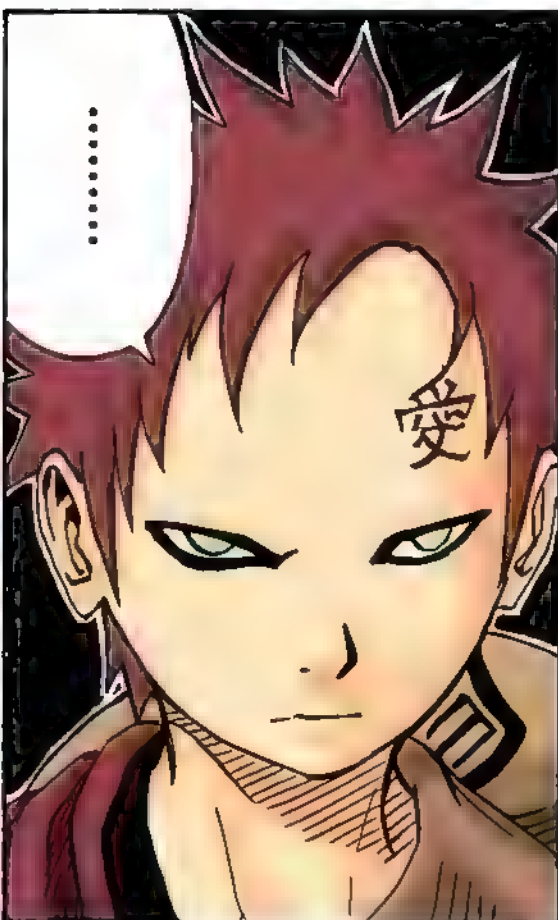
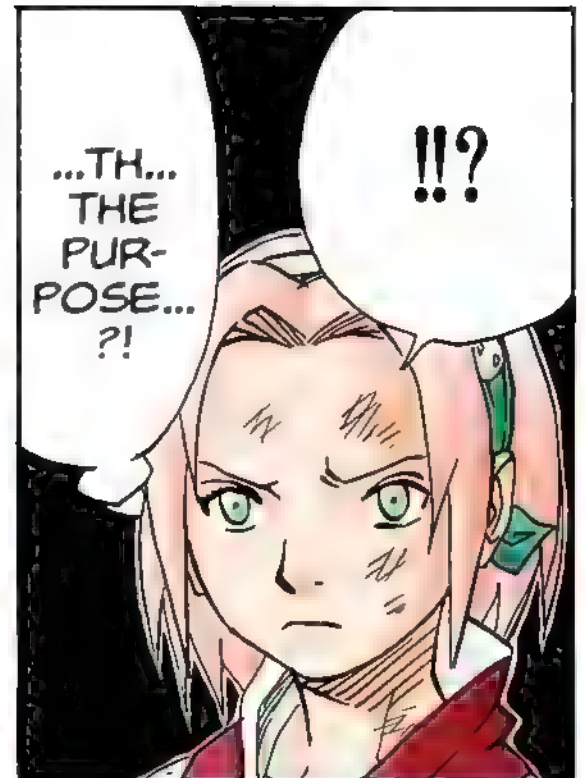
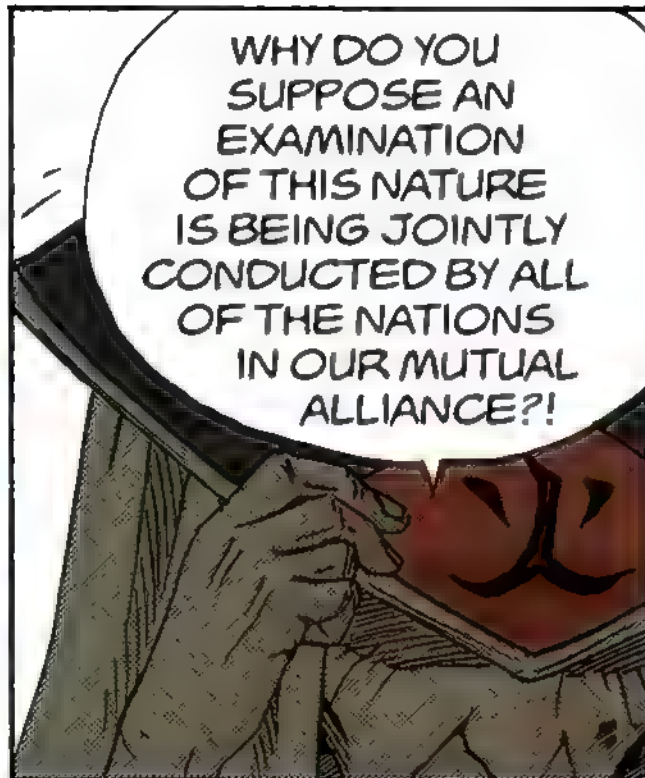


I'VE GOT
A BAD
FEELING
ABOUT
THIS...

HMM...

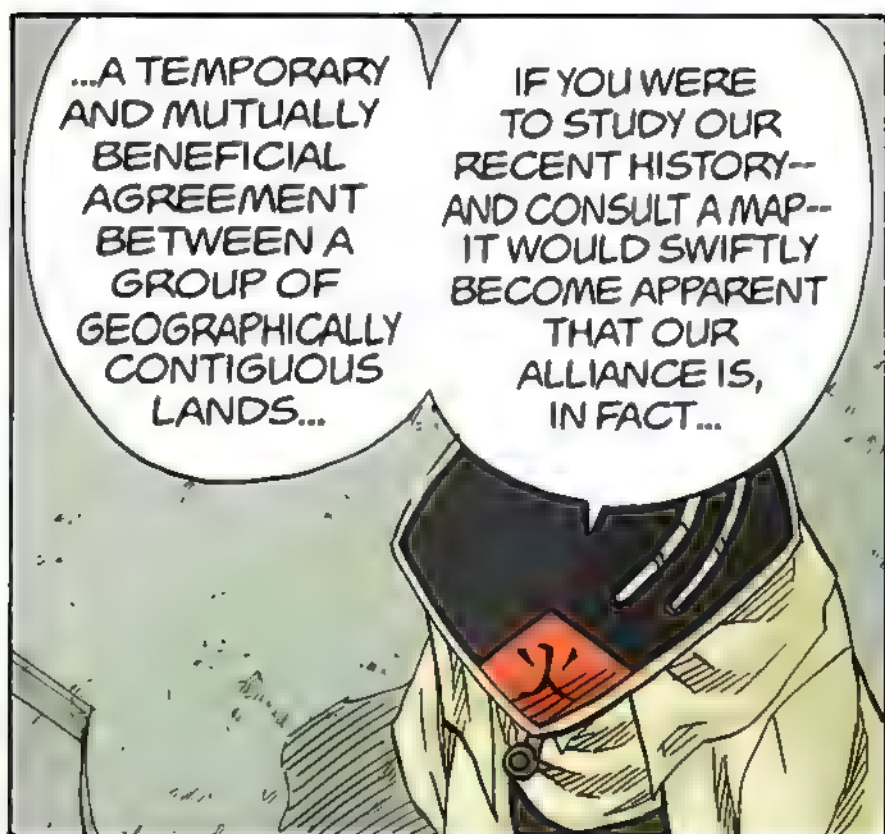
ズキ...







...A
WAR-IN-
MINIATURE
BETWEEN
ALL OF
OUR ALLIED
LANDS.



...A TEMPORARY
AND MUTUALLY
BENEFICIAL
AGREEMENT
BETWEEN A
GROUP OF
GEOGRAPHICALLY
CONTIGUOUS
LANDS...

IF YOU WERE
TO STUDY OUR
RECENT HISTORY--
AND CONSULT A MAP--
IT WOULD SWIFTLY
BECOME APPARENT
THAT OUR
ALLIANCE IS,
IN FACT...



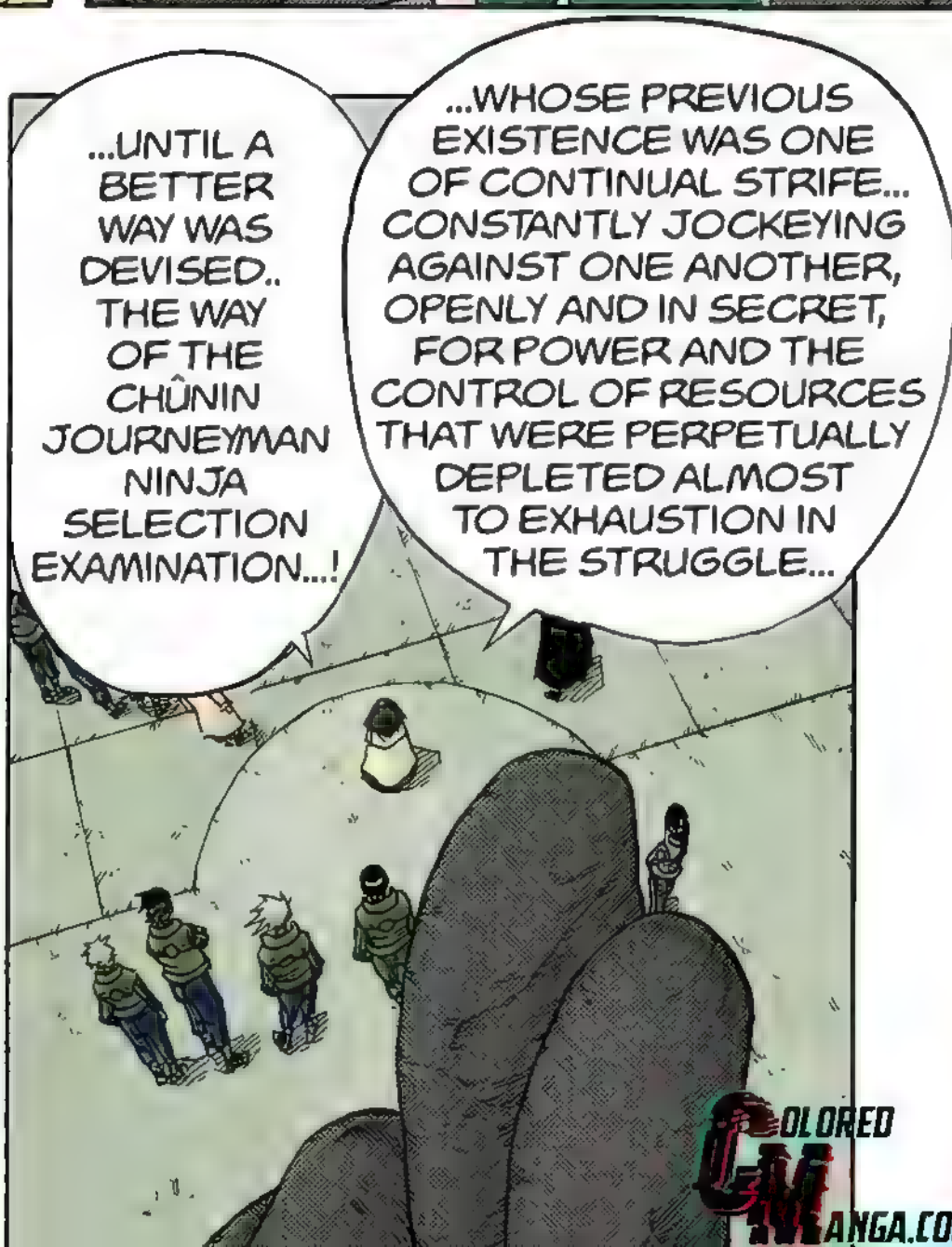
WH-
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN...?

!?



I THOUGHT
THE POINT
WAS TO
SELECT
CHÛNIN!

THAT'S
THE
STUPIDEST
THING
I
EVER
HEARD!



...UNTIL A
BETTER
WAY WAS
DEvised..
THE WAY
OF THE
CHÛNIN
JOURNEYMAN
NINJA
SELECTION
EXAMINATION...!

...WHOSE PREVIOUS
EXISTENCE WAS ONE
OF CONTINUAL STRIFE...
CONSTANTLY JOCKEYING
AGAINST ONE ANOTHER,
OPENLY AND IN SECRET,
FOR POWER AND THE
CONTROL OF RESOURCES
THAT WERE PERPETUALLY
DEPLETED ALMOST
TO EXHAUSTION IN
THE STRUGGLE...





...YOUNG SHINOBI MAY FIGHT... TO THE DEATH, IF NEED BE!

...IT SERVES AS AN ARENA WHEREIN, FOR THE HONOR OF THEIR RESPECTIVE HOMELANDS...



MAKE NO MISTAKE. WHEN THIS EXAM IS DONE, IT WILL HAVE HAD THE SIDE EFFECT...
...OF WINNOWING OUT ANY APPLICANTS UNFIT TO ASCEND TO THE LEVEL OF CHÛNIN. BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY...



THEY WILL BE WATCHING YOU.

AND AMONG THEIR NUMBER WILL BE THOSE WHO RULE OVER EACH COUNTRY'S OWN HIDDEN NINJA VILLAGES.



THIS THIRD EXAMINATION WILL BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF A NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS...
...INCLUDING THE RULERS AND NOBILITY OF THE VARIOUS LANDS YOU ALL ASPIRE TO SERVE.

THE HONOR OF THEIR LANDS... ?!



.....



CONVERSELY, IF A PARTICULAR COUNTRY'S APPLICANTS ARE SHOWN TO BE INCOMPETENT OR FEEBLE...
...COMMISSIONS TO AGENTS OF THAT COUNTRY WILL DWINDLE.

IF ANY ONE NATION'S APPLICANTS DEMONSTRATE OUTSTANDING SKILL AND SUPERIORITY...
...THE NOBLEMEN FROM EVERY LAND WILL BE QUICK TO COMMISSION WORK FROM THOSE TRAINED IN THAT SUPERIOR NATION.

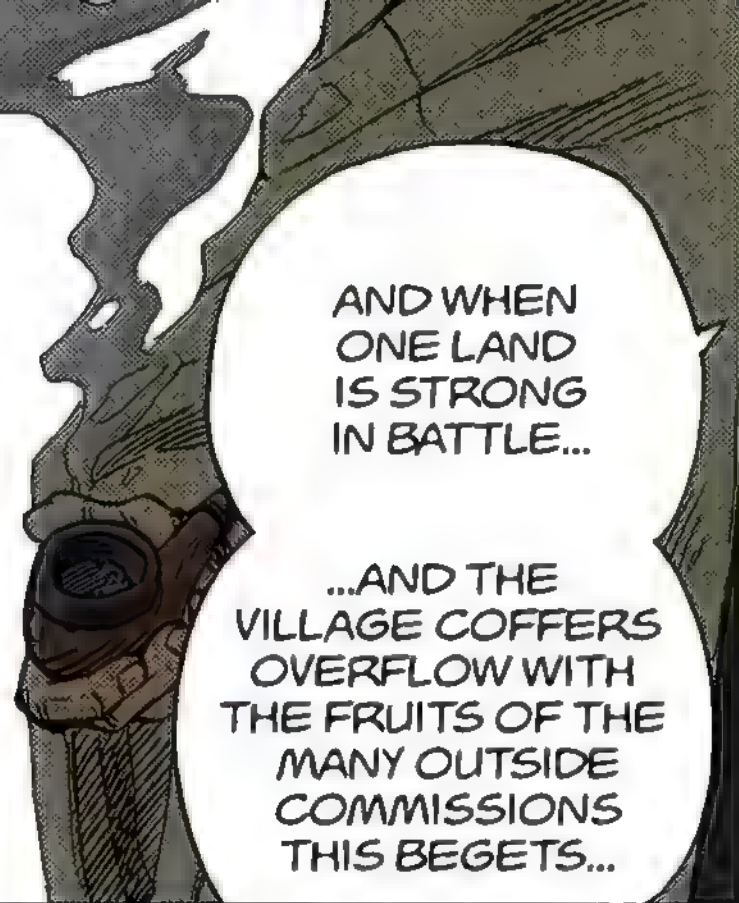


WHY IS IT
NECESSARY
TO STAKE OUR
LIVES AND
FIGHT...?!

SO?!



...THEN
THAT
VILLAGE MAY
SAY TO ITS
NEIGHBORS,
"BEWARE, FOR
WE POSSESS
PROWESS
AND RICHES
AND THE
INFLUENCE OF
POLITICAL
POWER"!



AND WHEN
ONE LAND
IS STRONG
IN BATTLE...

...AND THE
VILLAGE COFFERS
OVERFLOW WITH
THE FRUITS OF THE
MANY OUTSIDE
COMMISSIONS
THIS BEGETS...

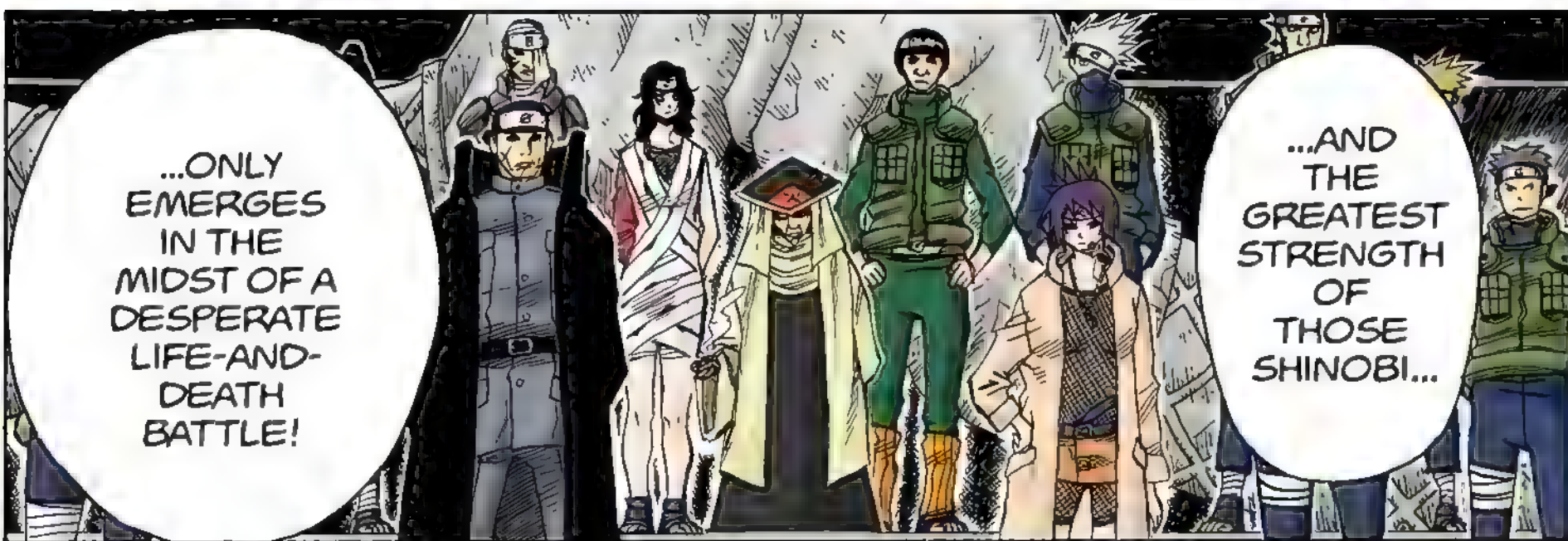


...AND THE
VILLAGE
DRAWS
STRENGTH
FROM THE
SHINOBI
WHO LIVE
THERE...

THE
STRENGTH
OF A
COUNTRY
IS DERIVED
FROM THE
STRENGTH
OF ITS
VILLAGE...



.....



...ONLY
EMERGES
IN THE
MIDST OF A
DESPERATE
LIFE-AND-
DEATH
BATTLE!

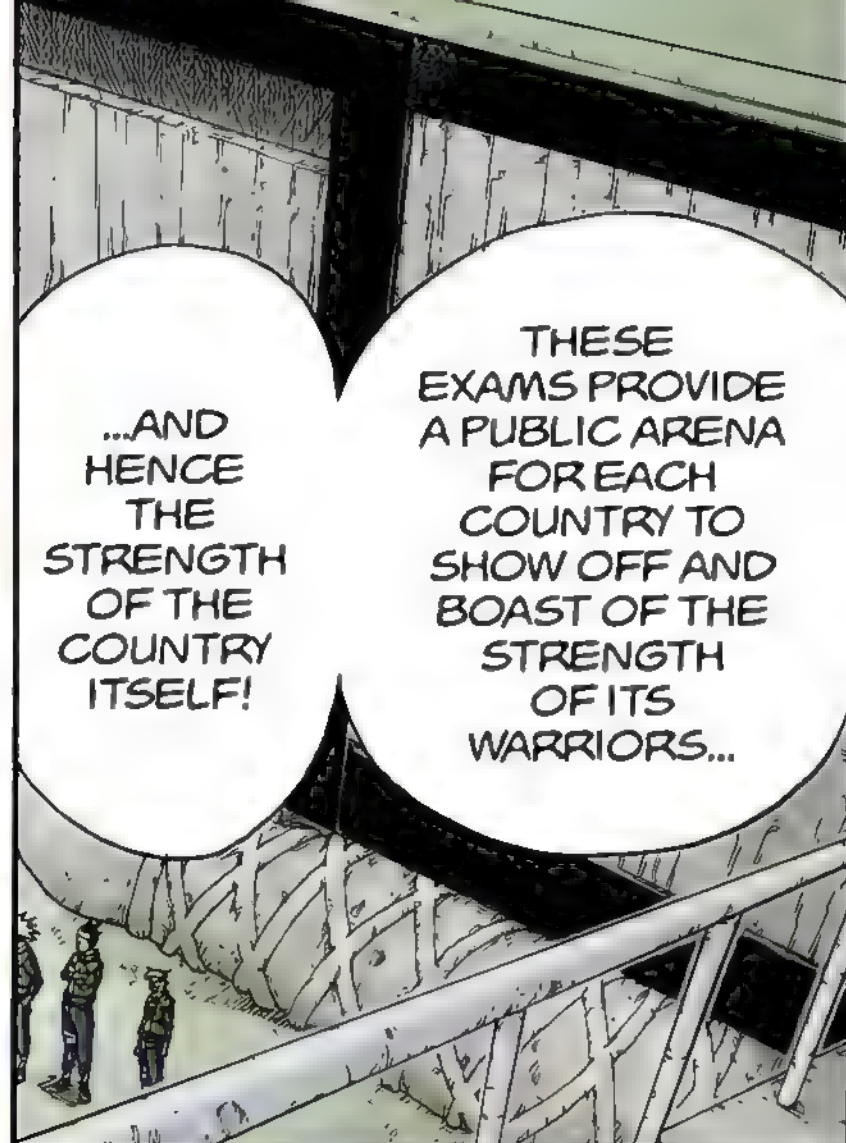
...AND
THE
GREATEST
STRENGTH
OF
THOSE
SHINOBI...





AS YOU STRUGGLE FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR VERY LIVES AND YOUR PEOPLE, YOU HELP TO FULFILL THE DREAM THAT WAS ENVISIONED BY OUR ANCESTORS.

THIS TEST HAS MEANING AND GREAT CONSEQUENCE.



...AND HENCE THE STRENGTH OF THE COUNTRY ITSELF!

THESE EXAMS PROVIDE A PUBLIC ARENA FOR EACH COUNTRY TO SHOW OFF AND BOAST OF THE STRENGTH OF ITS WARRIORS...



TO PRESERVE THE BALANCE OF POWER AT THE RISK OF LIVES...

THOUGH MY MEANING IS SUBTLE, I CHOSE MY WORDS WITH CARE.

...IS THE ESSENCE OF FRIENDSHIP IN THE WORLD OF SHINOBI.



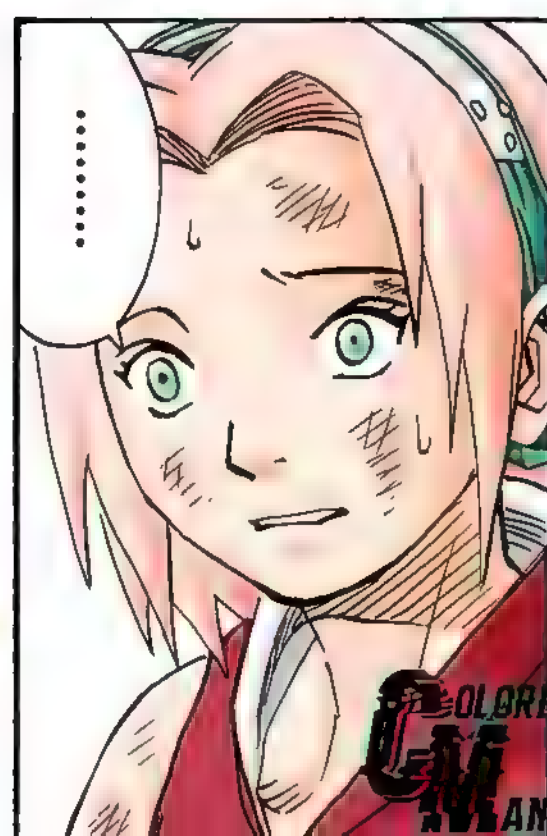
...YOU'VE ALWAYS EMPHASIZED THE CONCEPT OF "FRIENDSHIP" ... WHY?!

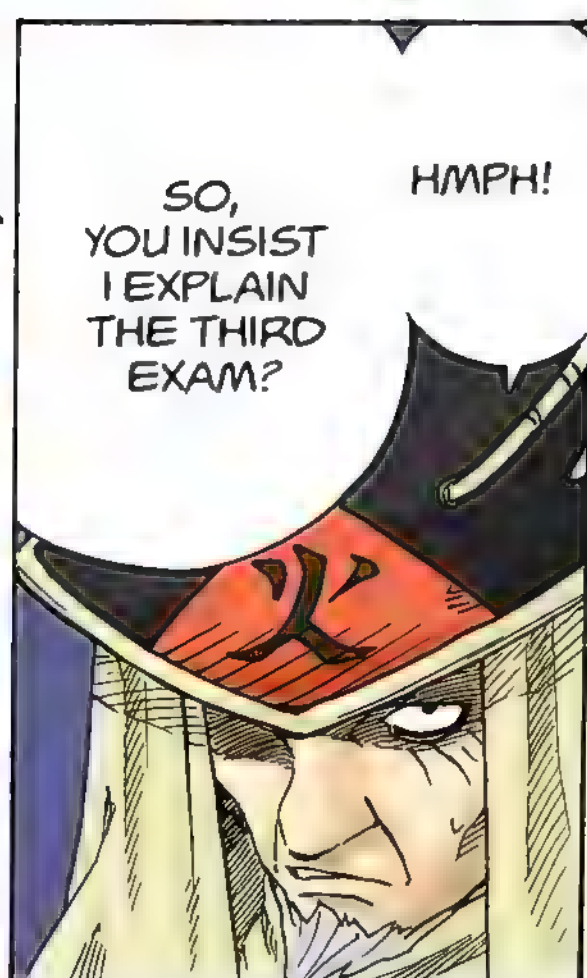
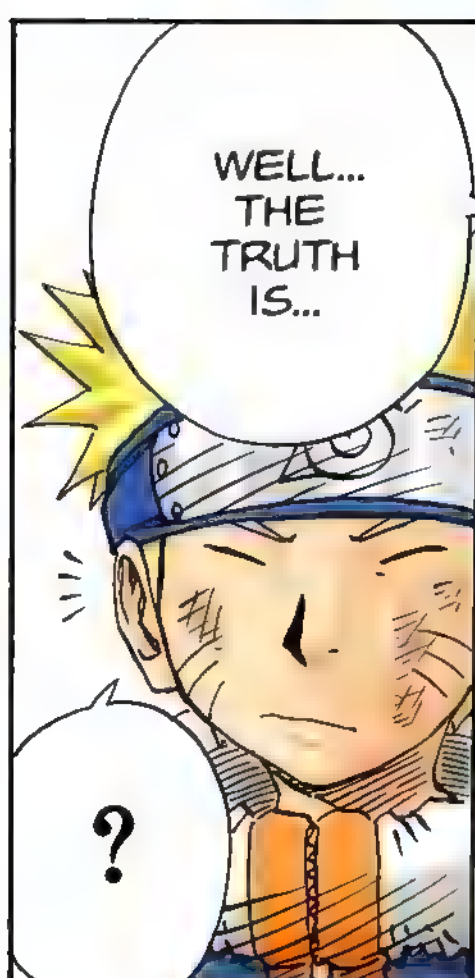
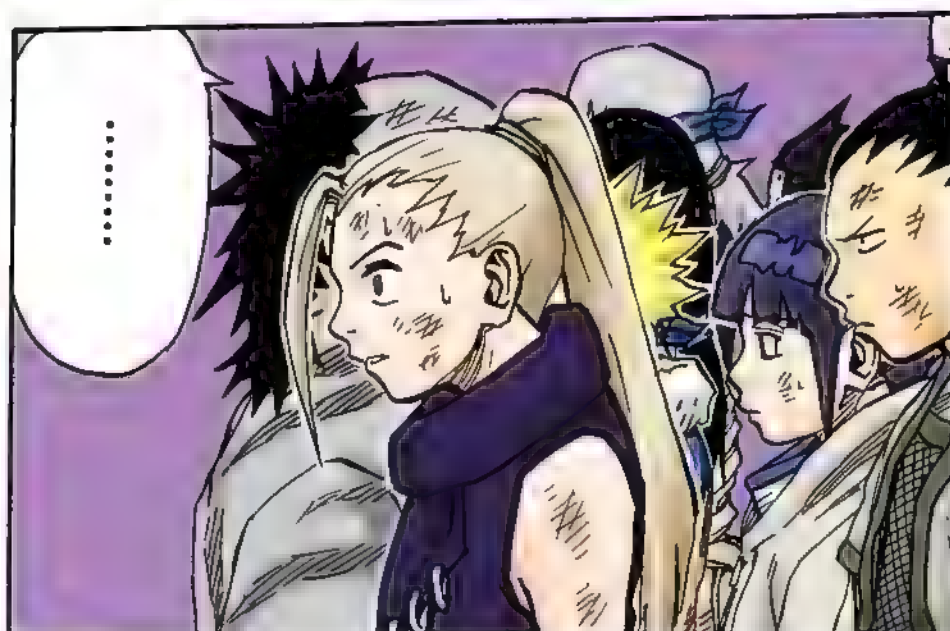
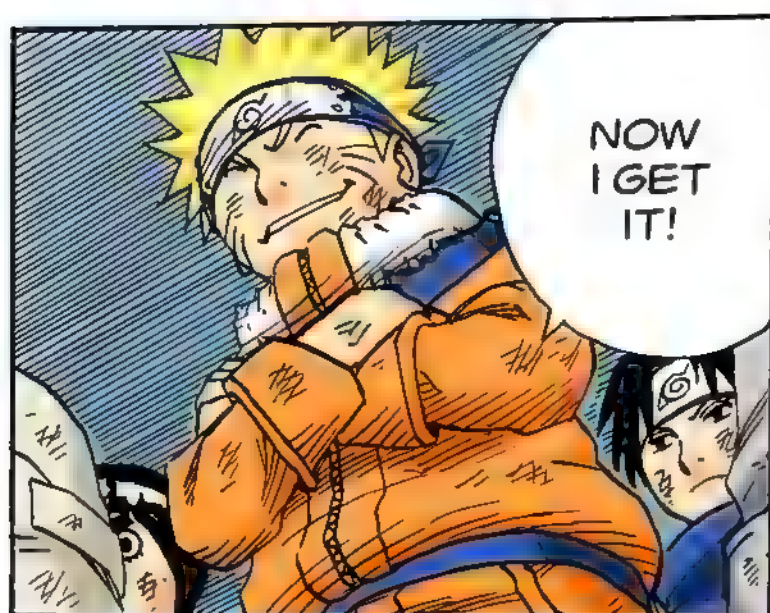
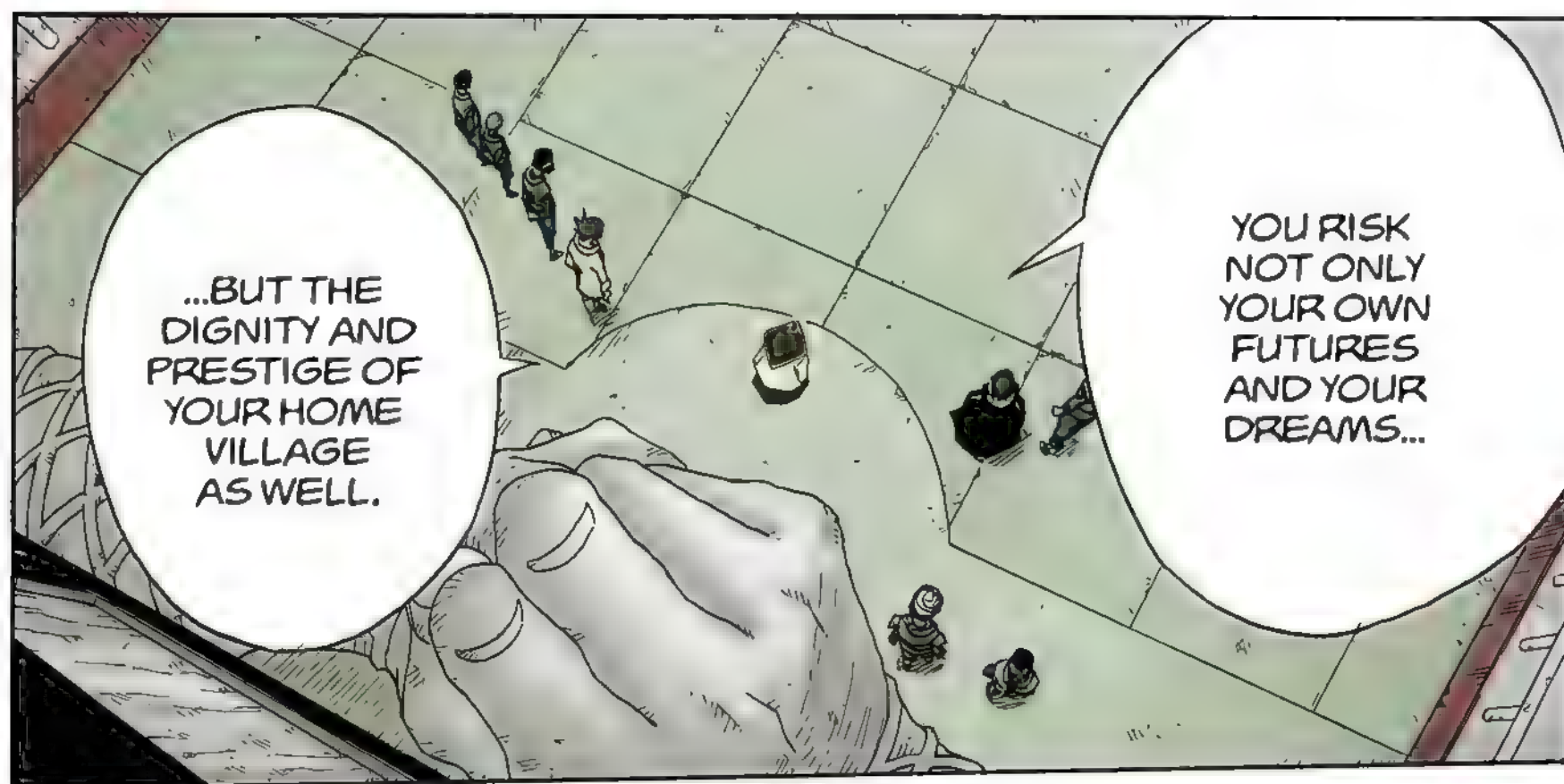
BUT...

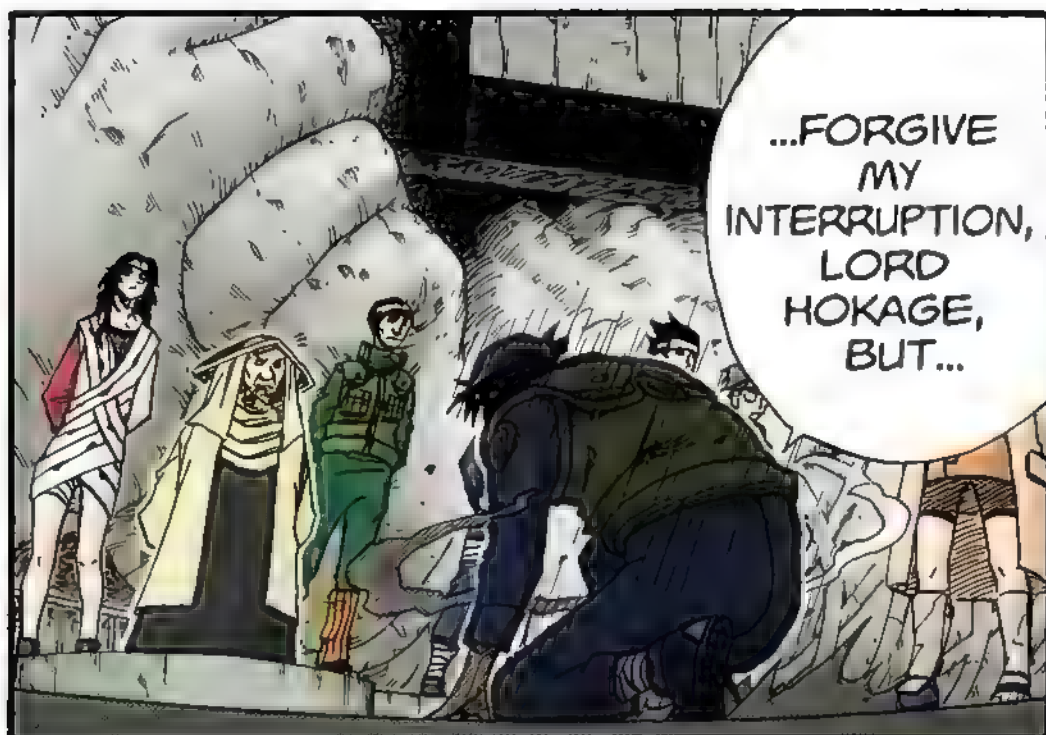


YOU ARE TAKING NO ORDINARY TEST!

LET ME REITERATE BEFORE THE THIRD EXAM BEGINS...



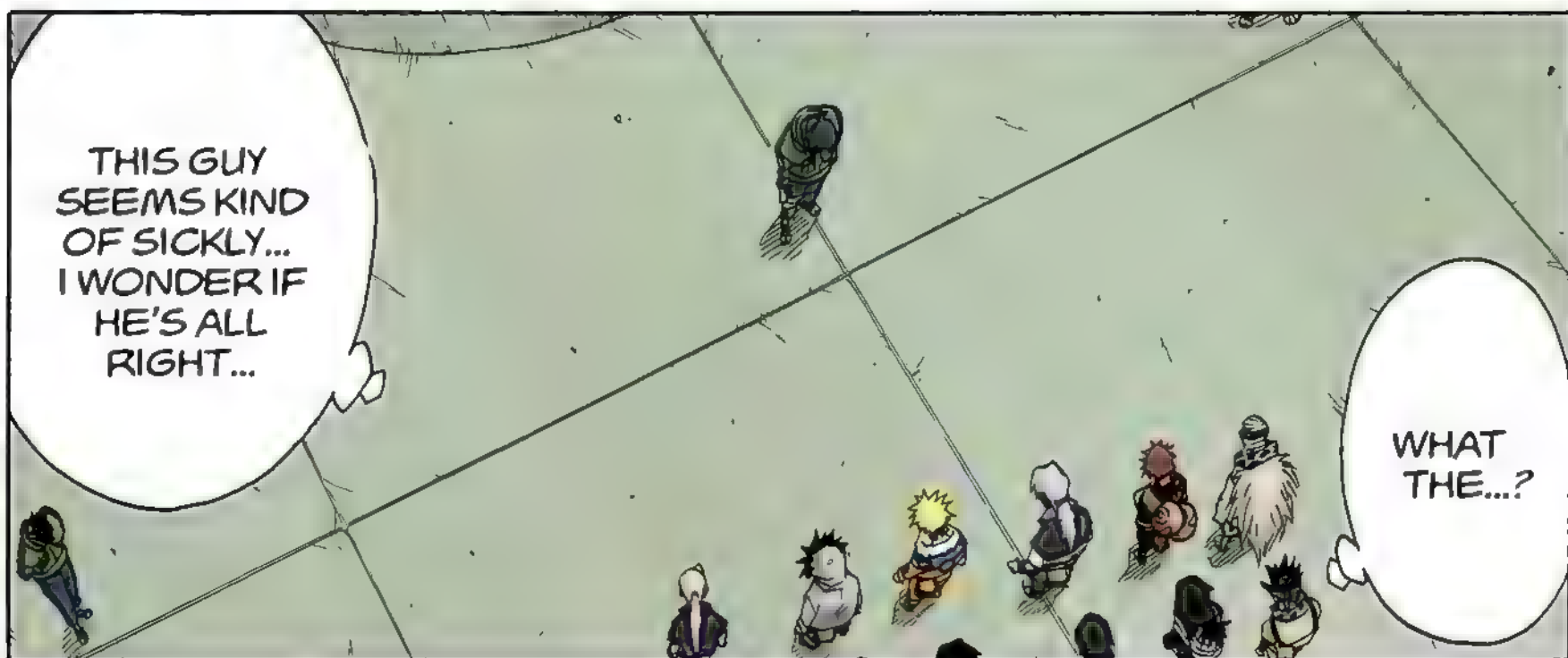






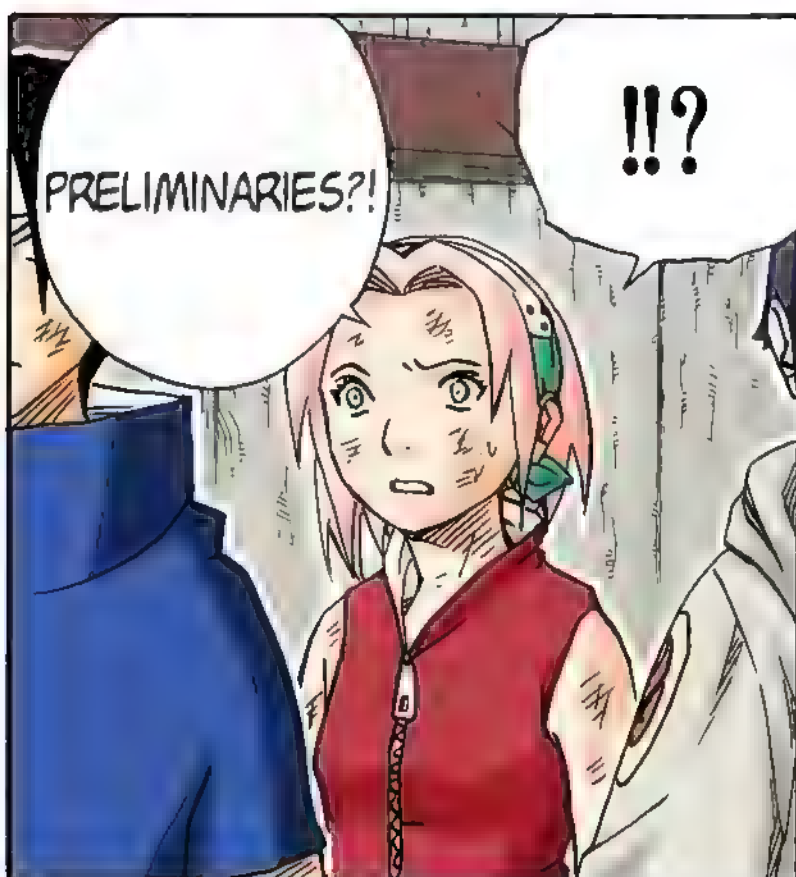
...I MUST
ASK YOU
ALL TO DO
SOMETHING
FOR ME...

UHHH...
BEFORE
WE
START
THE
EXAM...



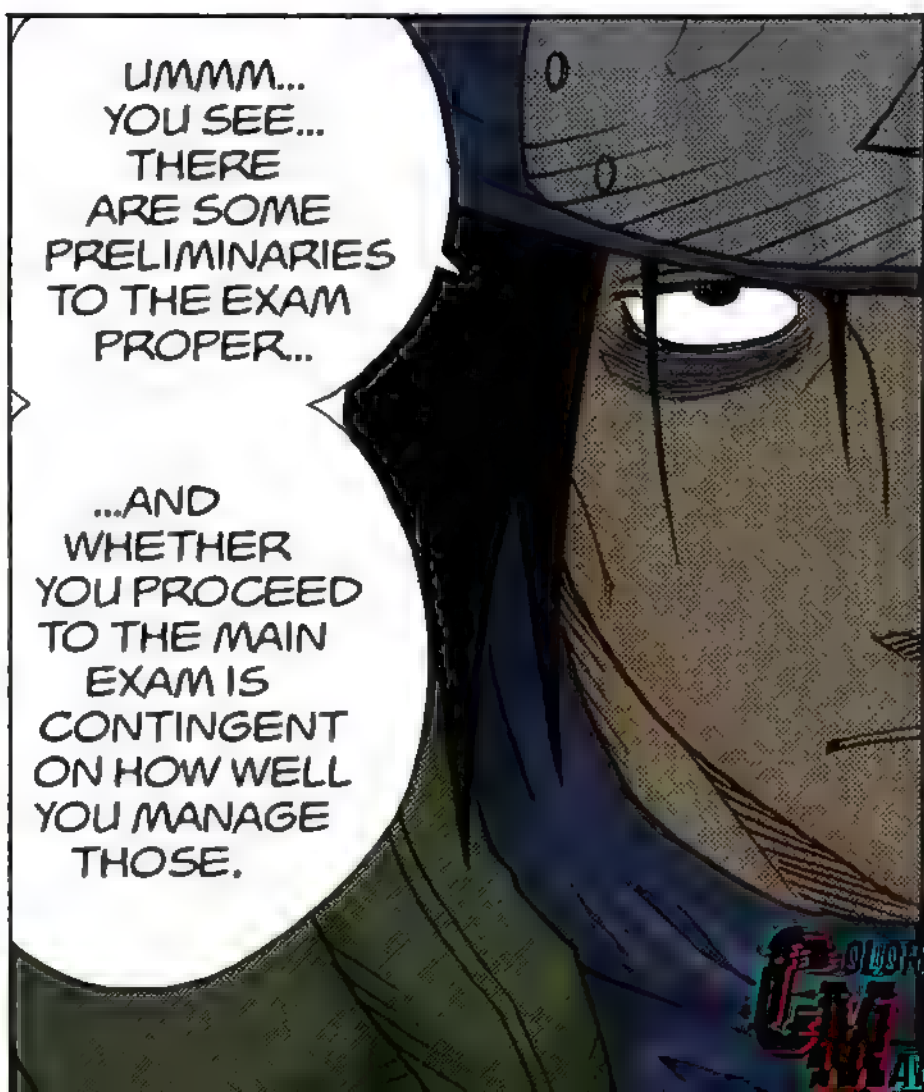
THIS GUY
SEEMS KIND
OF SICKLY...
I WONDER IF
HE'S ALL
RIGHT...

WHAT
THE...?



PRELIMINARIES?!

!!?



UMMM...
YOU SEE...
THERE
ARE SOME
PRELIMINARIES
TO THE EXAM
PROPER...

...AND
WHETHER
YOU PROCEED
TO THE MAIN
EXAM IS
CONTINGENT
ON HOW WELL
YOU MANAGE
THOSE.

WHY CAN'T ALL OF THE REMAINING APPLICANTS JUST PROCEED DIRECTLY TO THE NEXT EXAM?

MASTER HAYATE... I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN BY PRELIMINARIES.

LIKE WHAT?!

PRELIMINARIES ...?

...WE STILL HAVE TOO MANY APPLICANTS.

WELL... I DON'T WANT TO SAY THAT THE FIRST TWO EXAMS WEREN'T DEMANDING ENOUGH... BUT THE TRUTH IS...

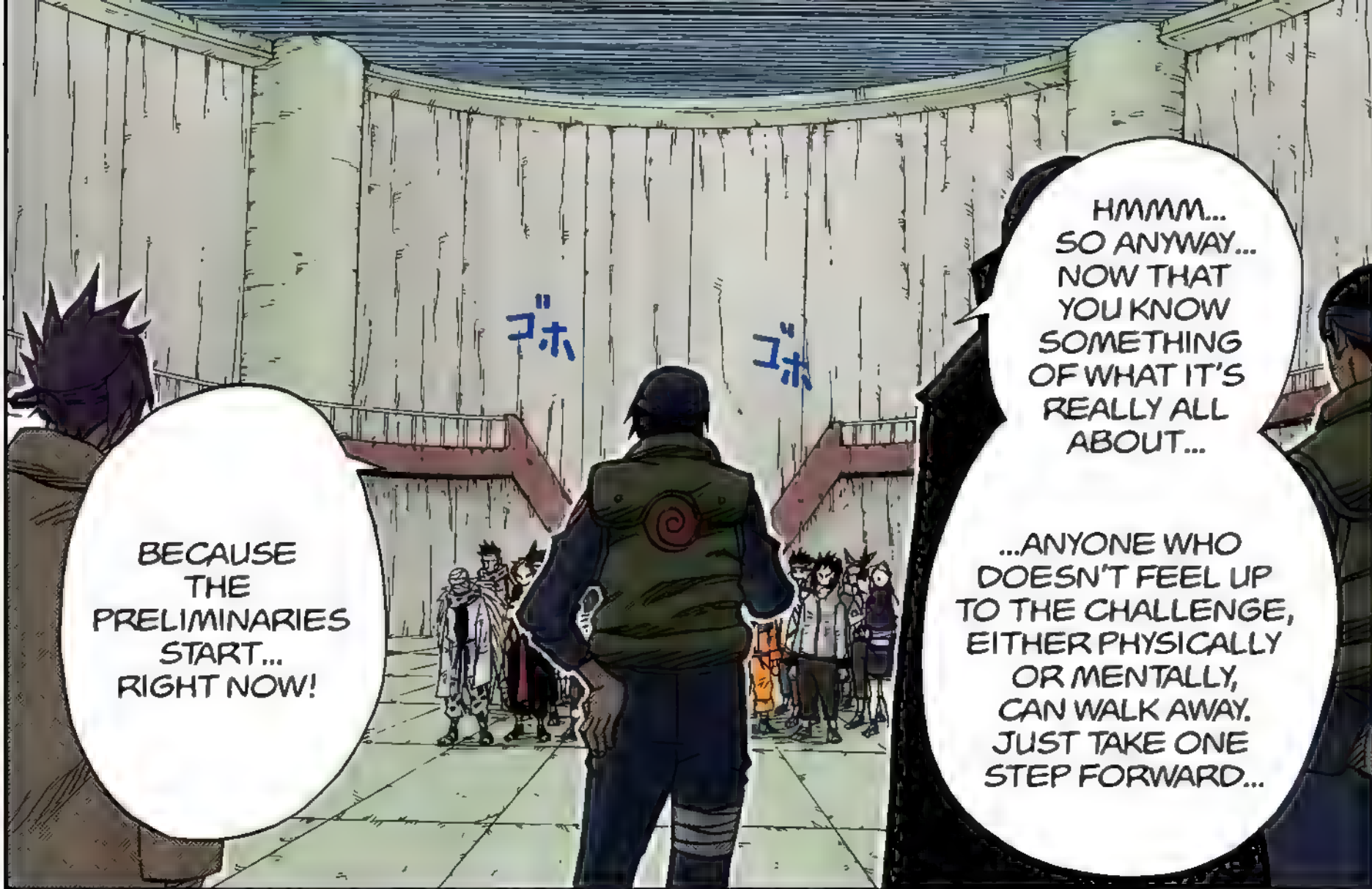
AS LORD HOKAGE MENTIONED, A NUMBER OF HONORED GUESTS WILL BE OBSERVING YOU DURING THE THIRD EXAM...

...TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS WHO'LL PROCEED TO THE THIRD EXAM.

UNDER THE TRADITIONAL RULES OF THE EXAM, WE HAVE TO HAVE A PRELIMINARY TEST...

...SO WE MUST MAKE THE EXAM INTENSE, TIGHT, AND FAST-MOVING.

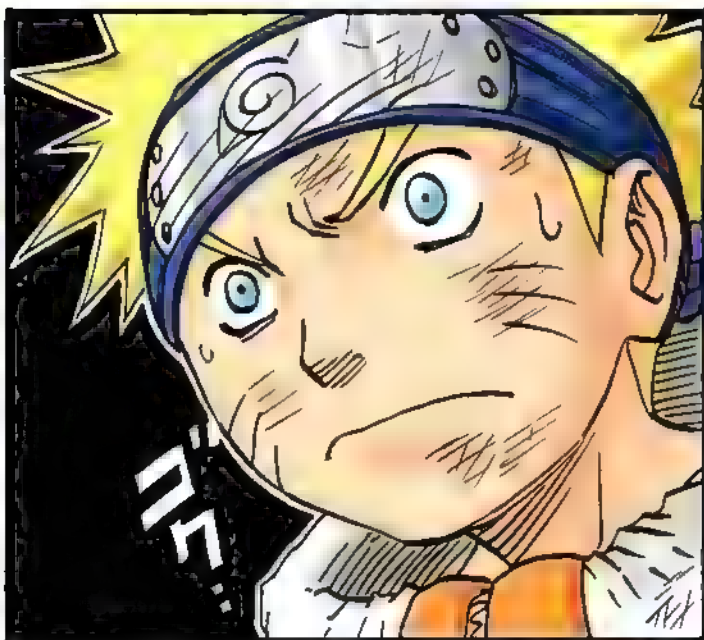
B-BUT...



BECAUSE
THE
PRELIMINARIES
START...
RIGHT NOW!

HMMM...
SO ANYWAY...
NOW THAT
YOU KNOW
SOMETHING
OF WHAT IT'S
REALLY ALL
ABOUT...

...ANYONE WHO
DOESN'T FEEL UP
TO THE CHALLENGE,
EITHER PHYSICALLY
OR MENTALLY,
CAN WALK AWAY.
JUST TAKE ONE
STEP FORWARD...



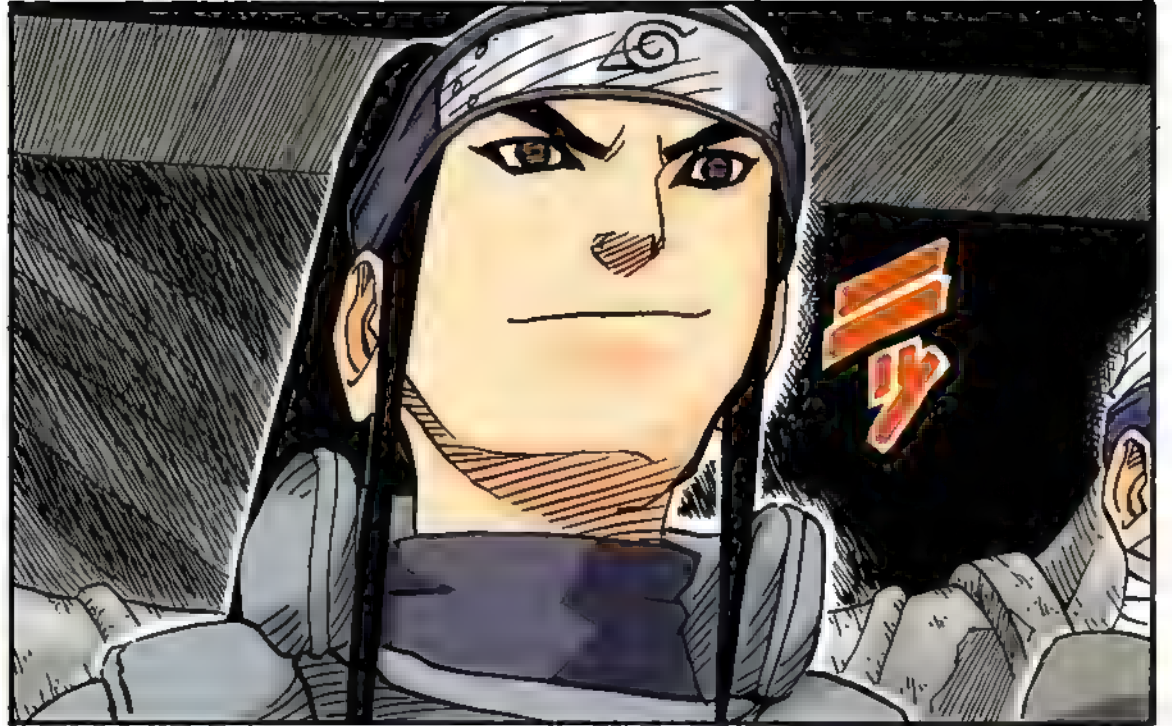
NOW?!

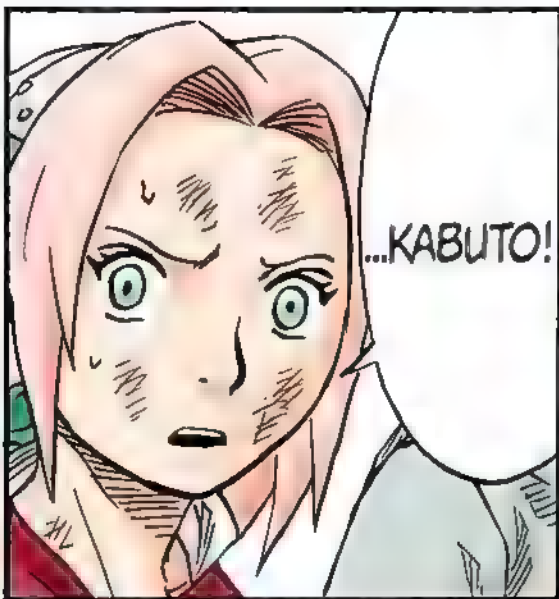
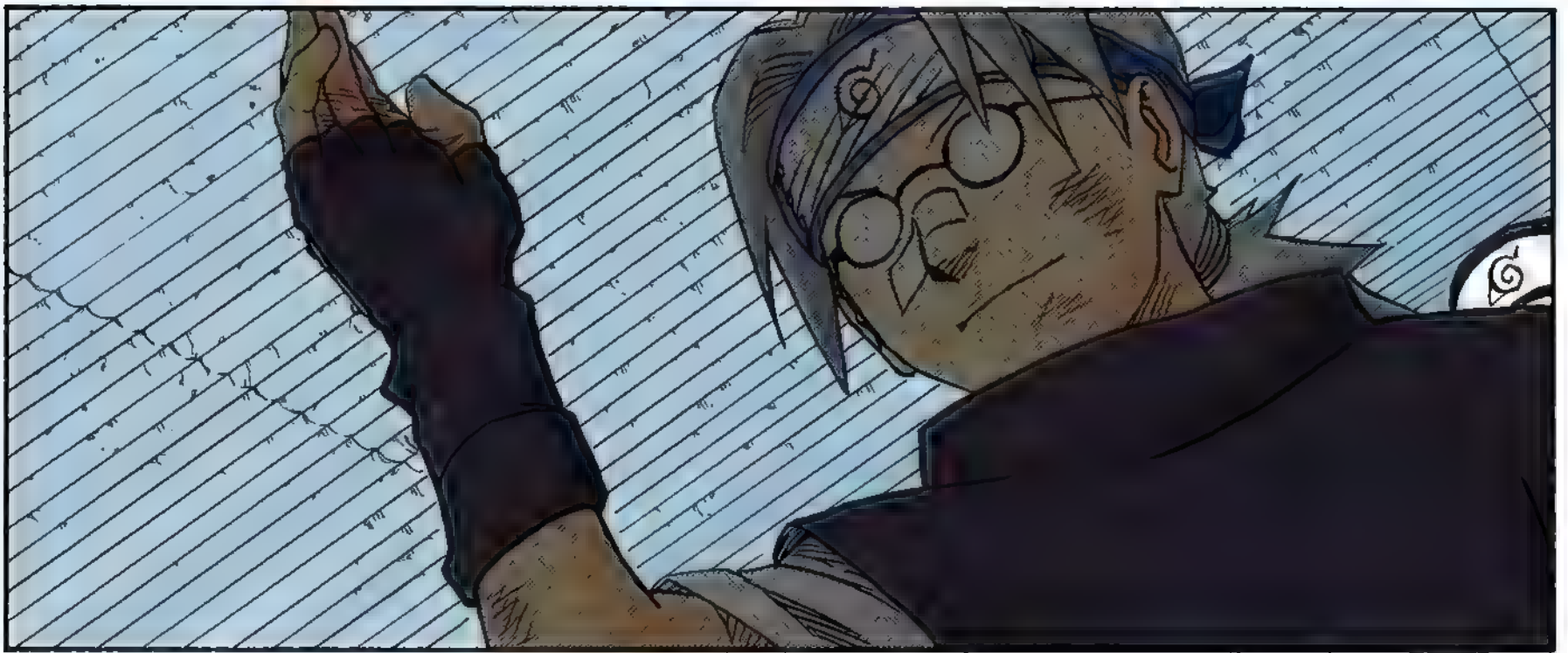


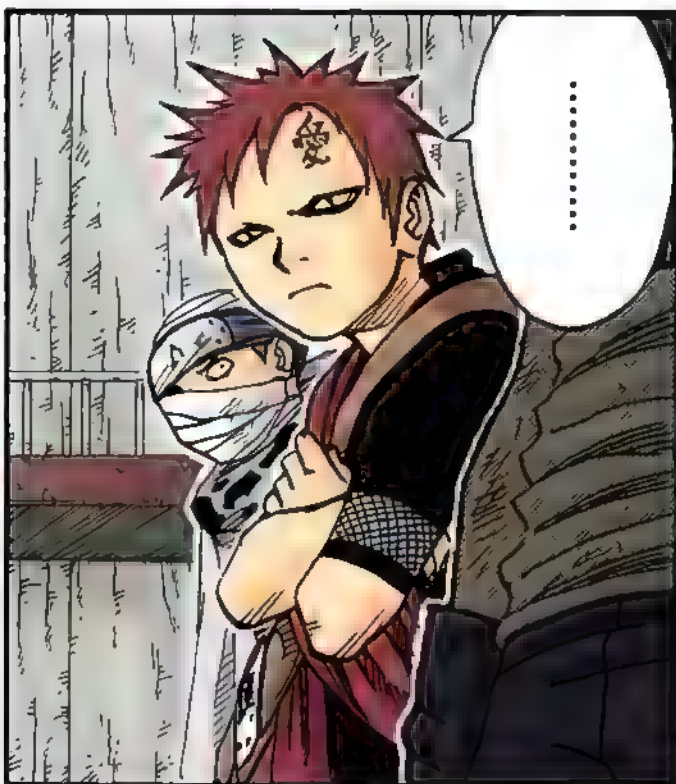
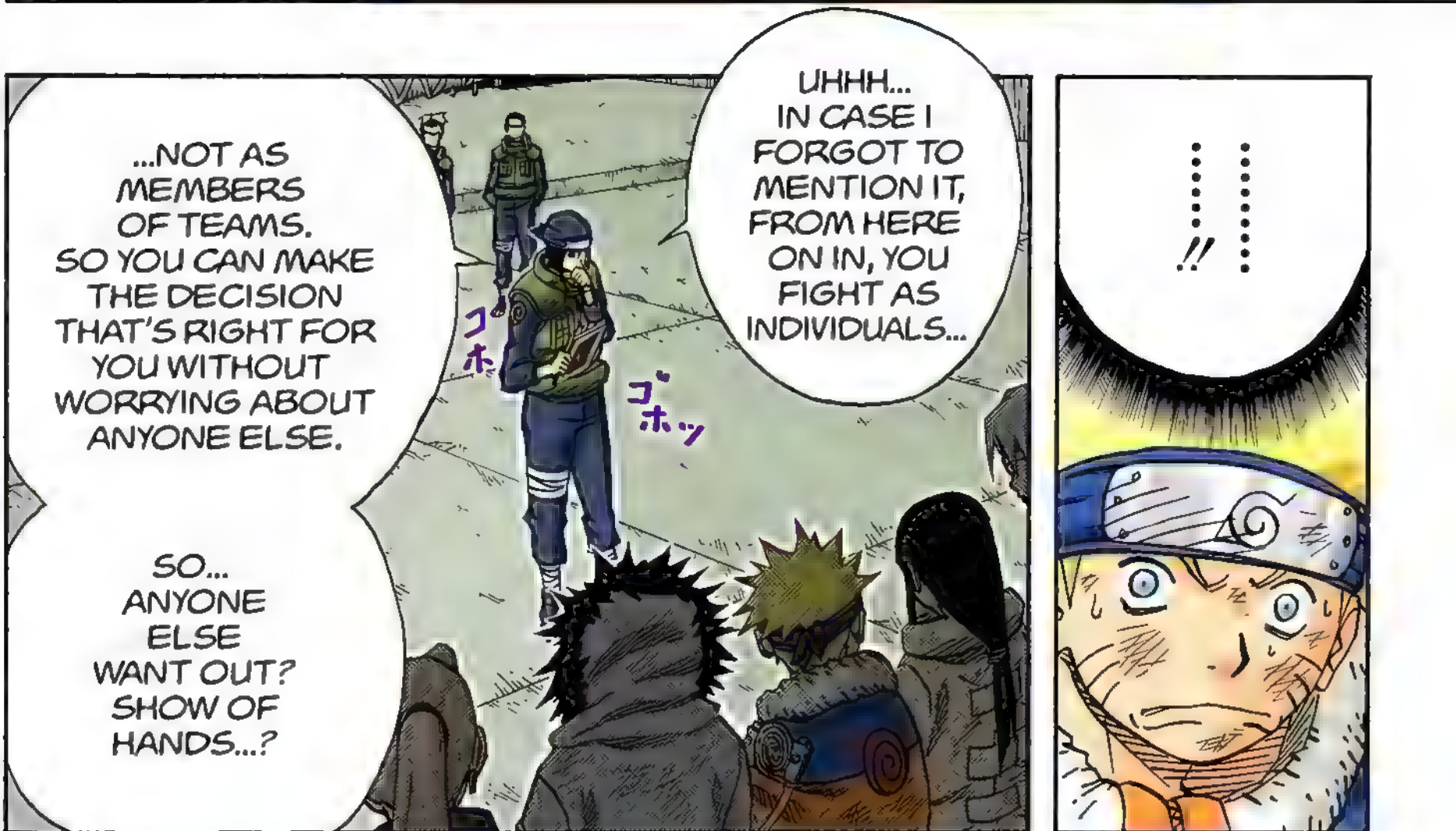
THAT
KABUTO
GUY AND I
MADE A PACT...
SO I'LL
DEFINITELY
GIVE THIS
TEST MY
BEST!

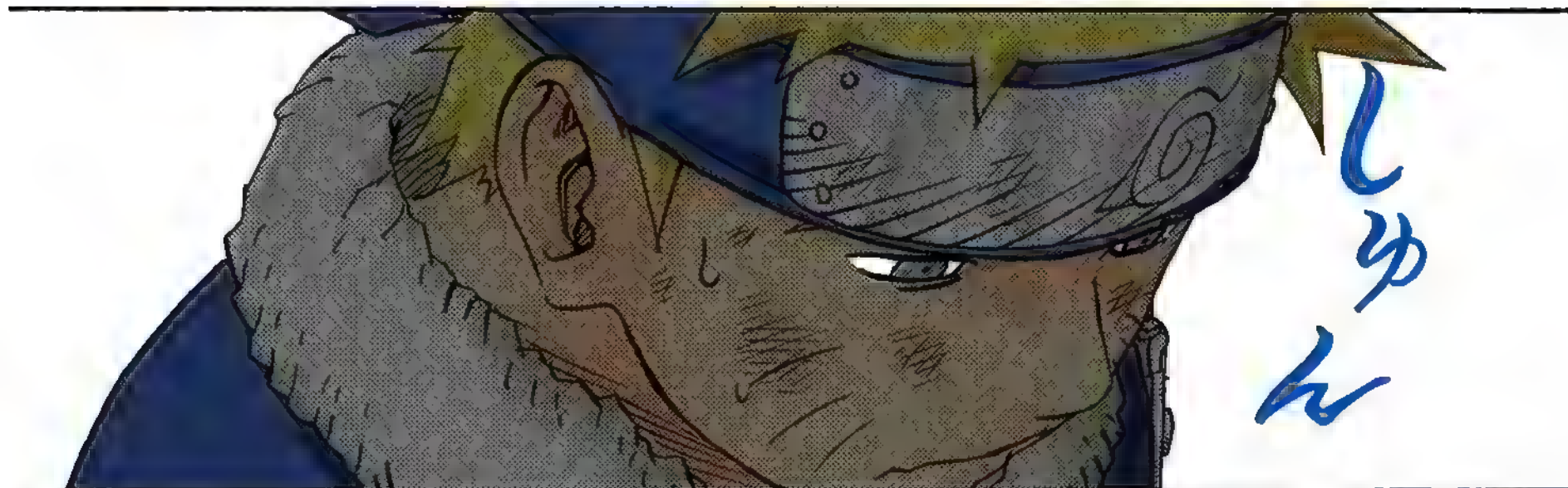
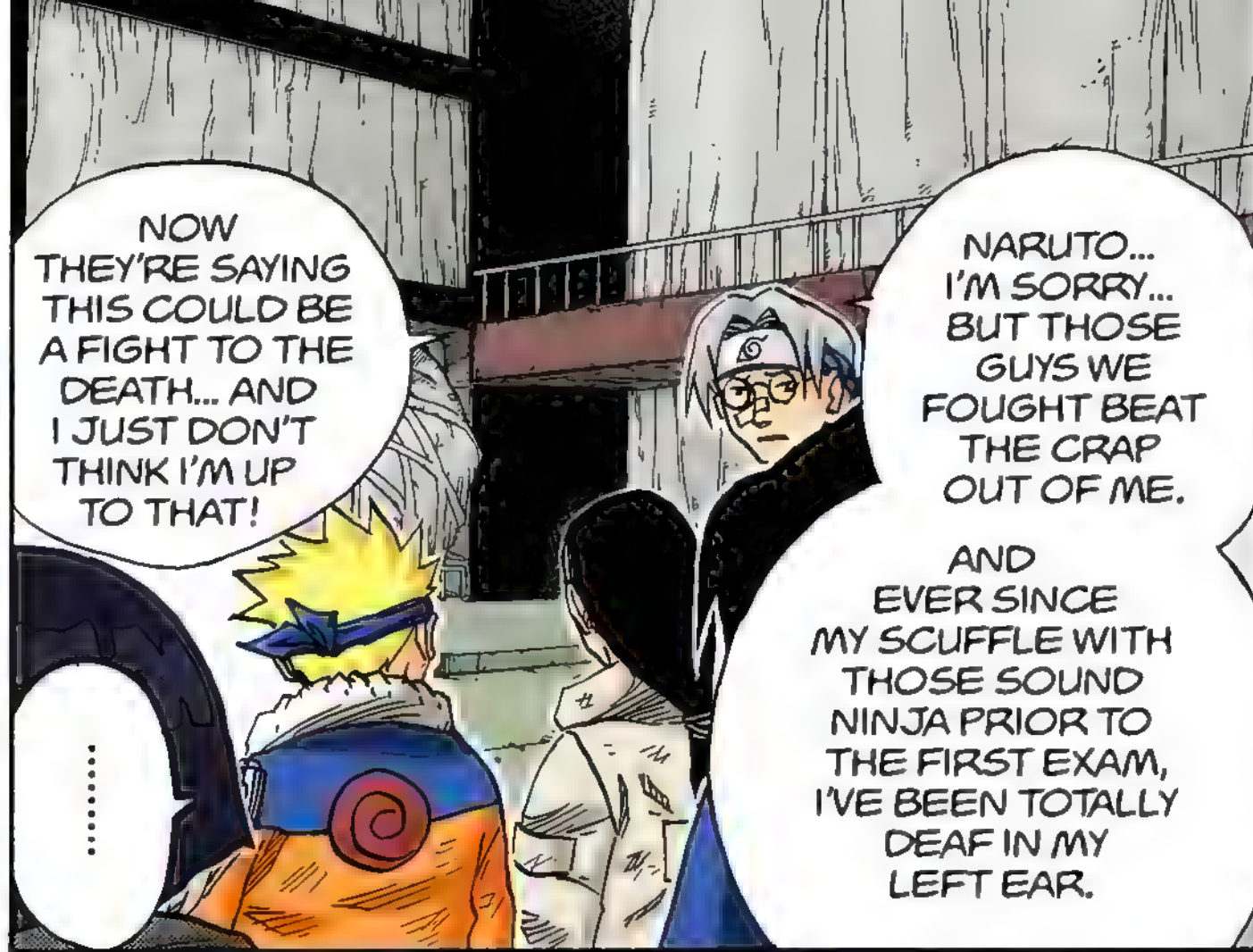
ALL
RIGHT!!

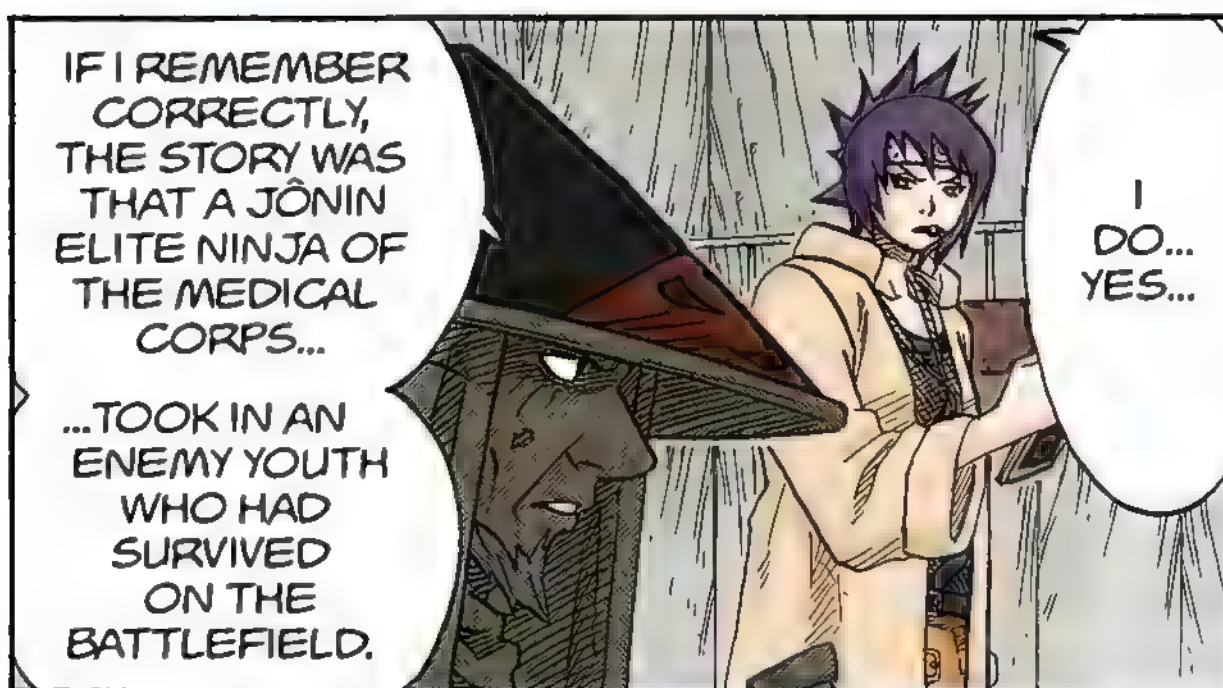
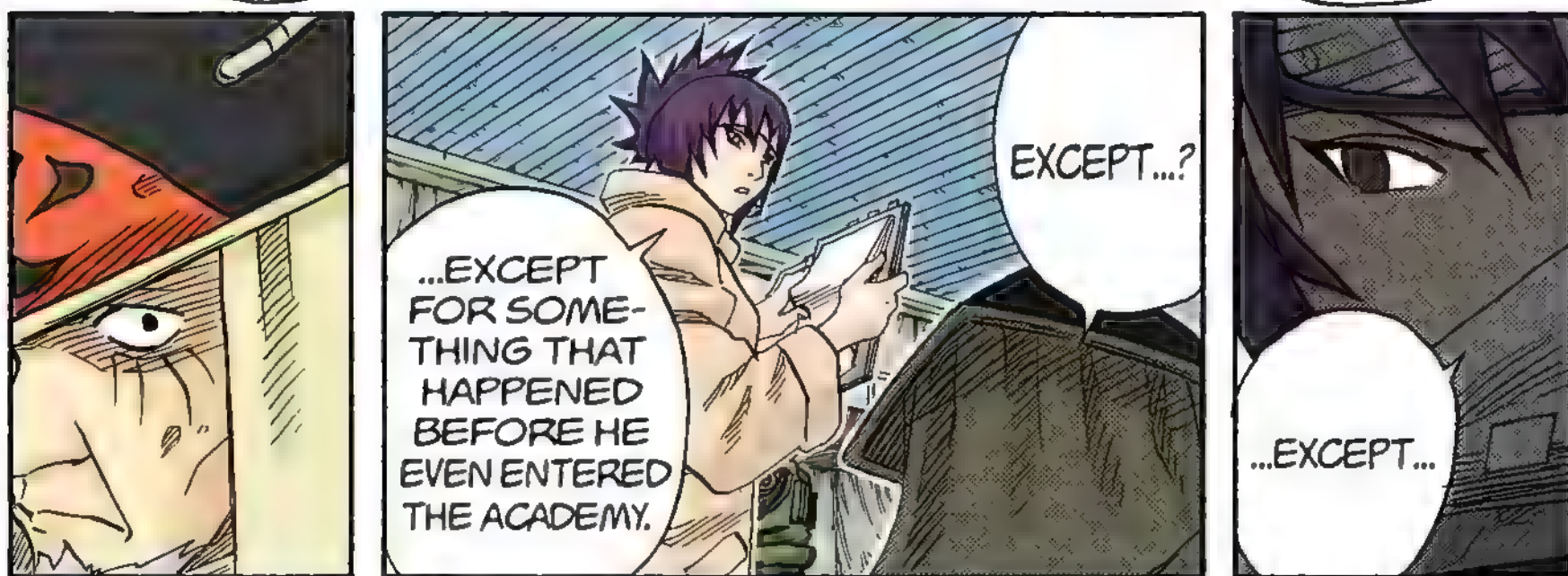


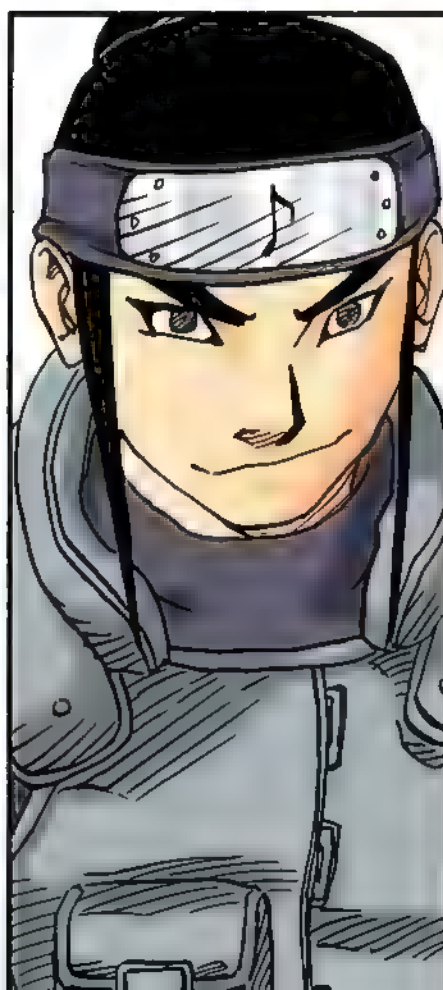
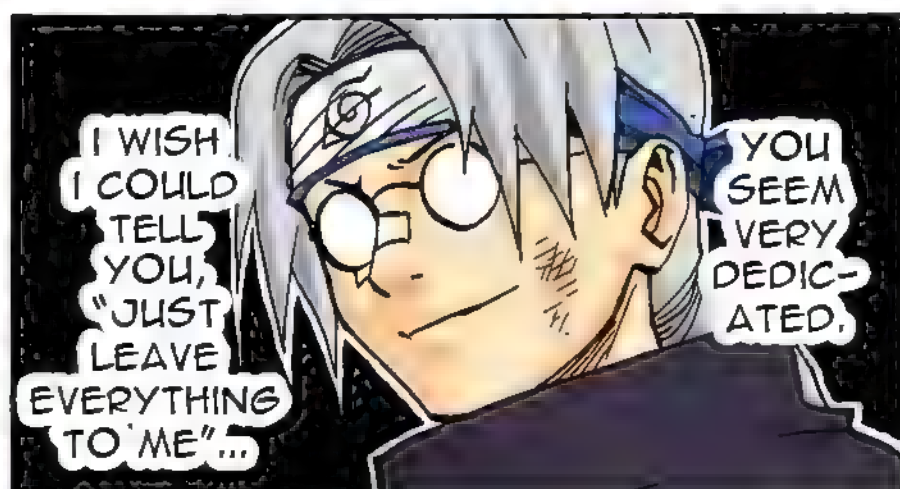












...LORD
OROCHIMARU!

...THEN I
CAN HAND
OFF THE
INTELLIGENCE-
GATHERING
WORK TO YOU...

...HAS IT
BECOME TOO
MUCH FOR YOU?
ARE YOU READY
TO SNAP? IS
YOUR ROILING
BLOOD ACHING
TO FLOW
FREE?

GET A HOLD
OF YOURSELF!
HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
LORD
OROCHIMARU'S
ORDERS?

THE
STRAIN
OF ALWAYS
HOLDING
IN YOUR
TRUE
SELF...

AS MY
UNDERCOVER
AGENT,
YOU'VE HAD
TO WEAR
THE MASK
OF A FALSE
LIFE SINCE
YOU WERE
A MERE
CHILD.

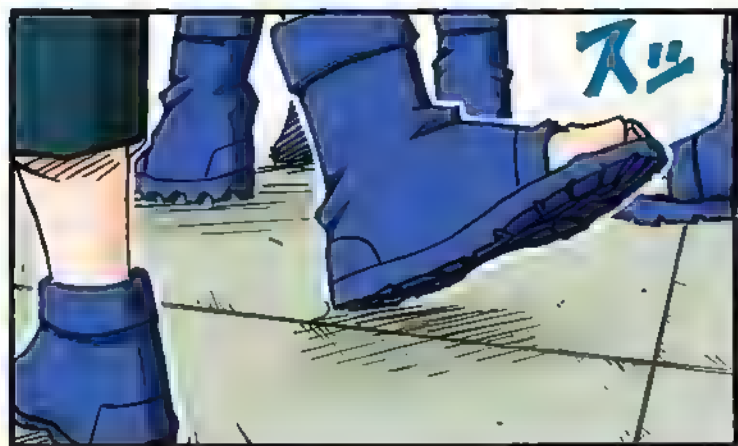
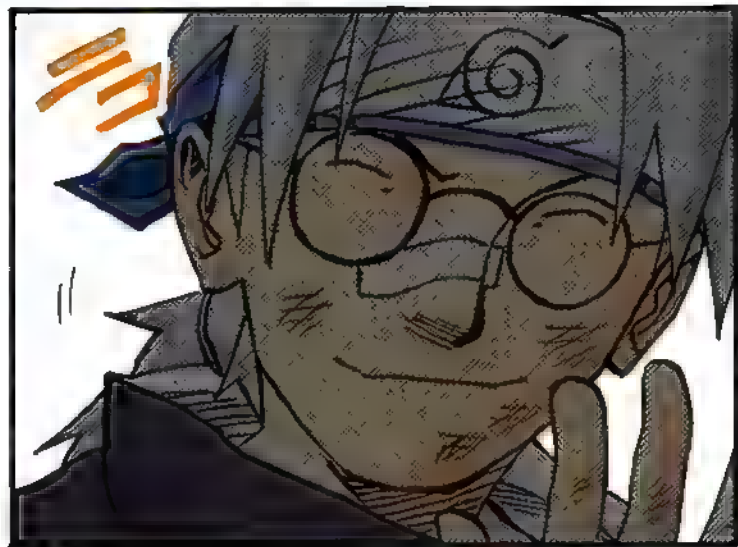
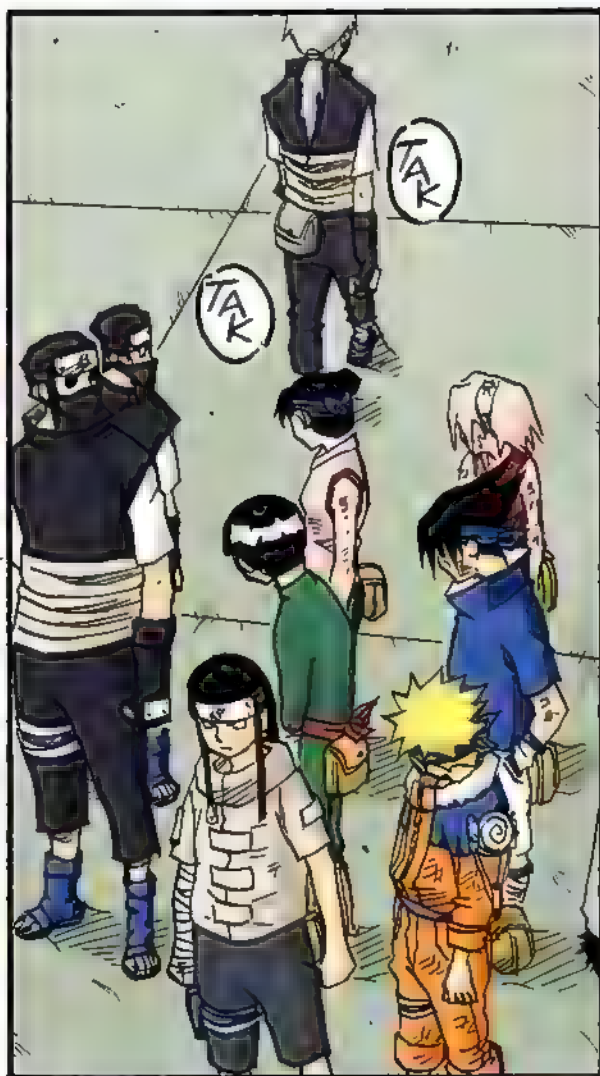
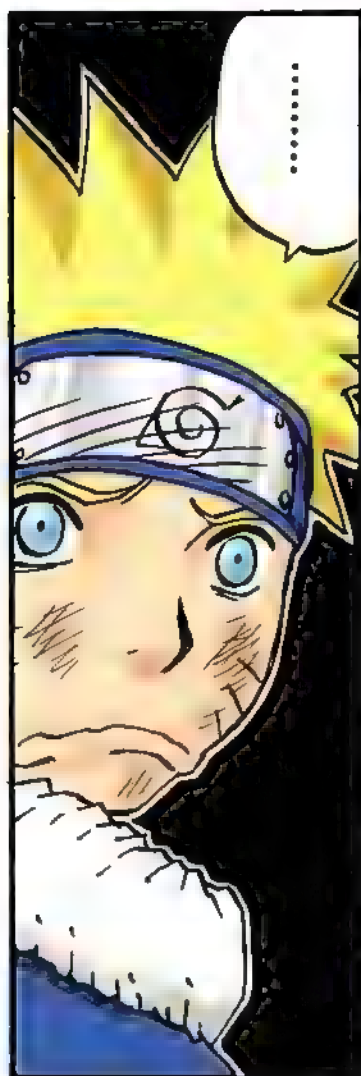
CONSIDERING
HOW YOU
RESENT
MY RECENT
PROMOTION,
I WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT
YOU'D JUMP
AT THE
CHANCE.

IT'S THE
PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY
FOR A REAL
SHOW OF
SHEER
BRUTE
STRENGTH!

HMPH...
YOU MAY THINK
YOU'RE LORD
OROCHIMARU'S
FAVORITE...
BUT DON'T
PUSH IT,
BRAT.

ESPECIALLY
YOU,
YOROI...
WITH YOUR
ABILITIES,
THIS NEXT BIT
SHOULD BE A
PIECE OF
CAKE!

YOU
GUYS
CAN
TAKE
IT
FROM
HERE.





YOU
TOO,
NARUTO.

I LOOK
FORWARD
WITH
PLEASURE
TO THE
DAY OF
OUR
NEXT
MEETING,
SASUKE...



...SURE AS
MY NAME'S
YORO!

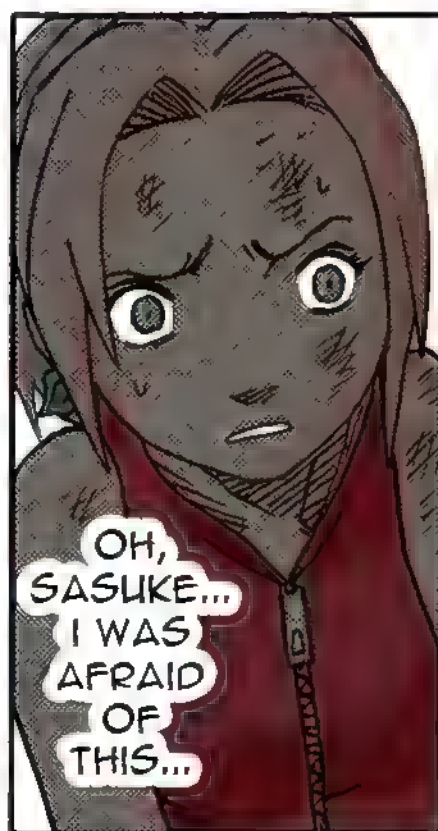
I'LL
ENSURE
THERE'LL
BE
NOTHING
LEFT
FOR
YOU TO
TAKE
PLEASURE
IN LATER...



LOOKS
LIKE
NO ONE
ELSE IS
BAILING
OUT.

SO,
UHHH...

ゴホッ...

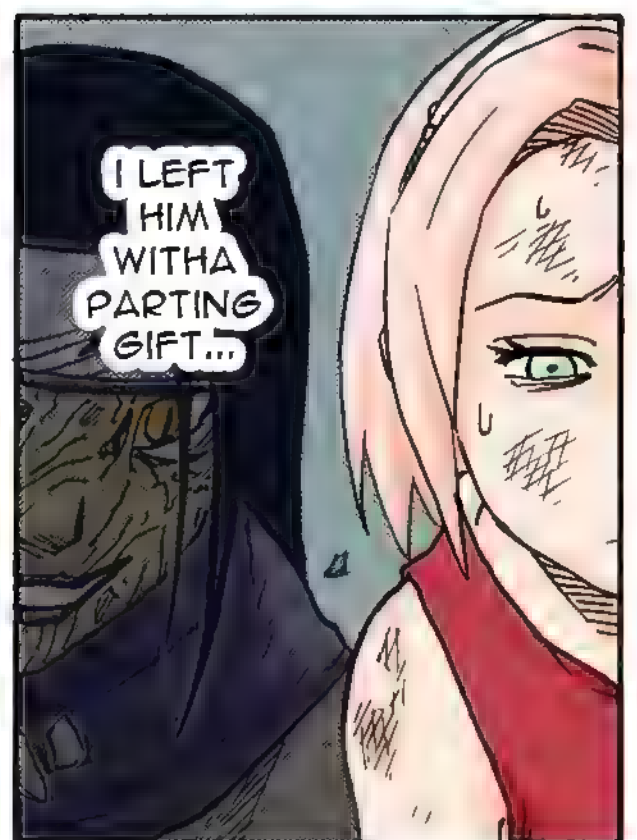
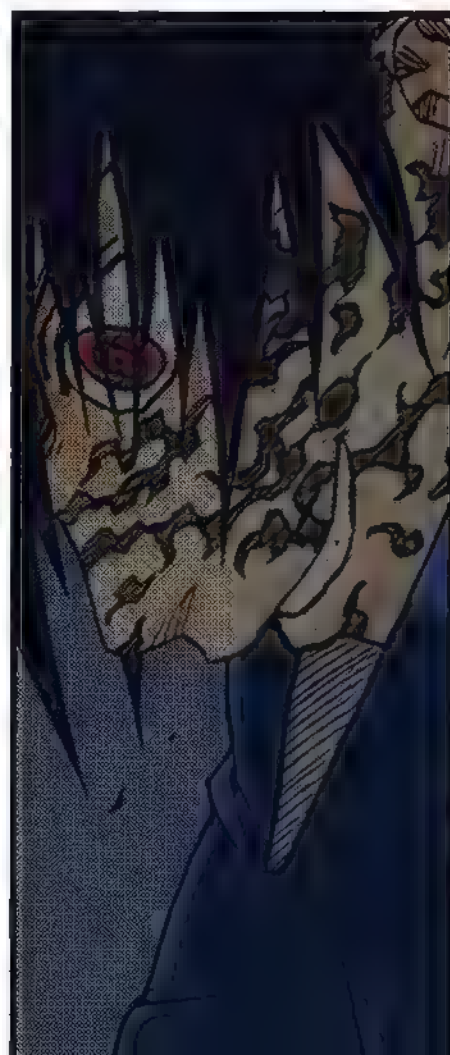
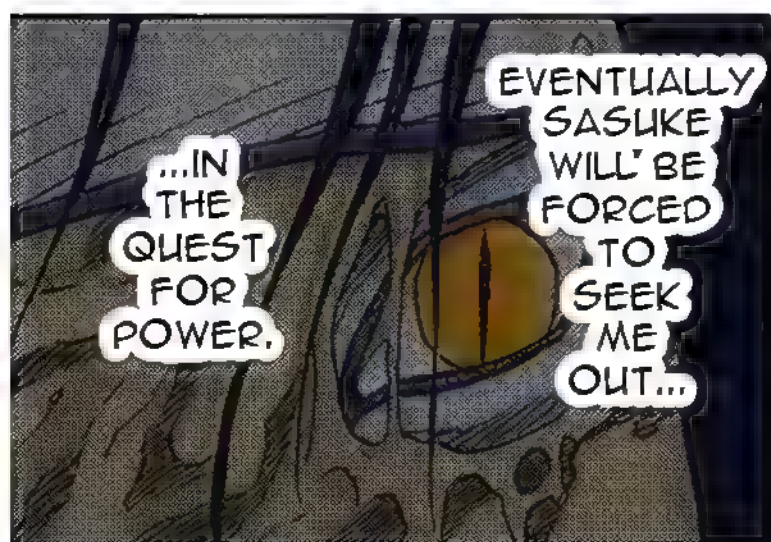
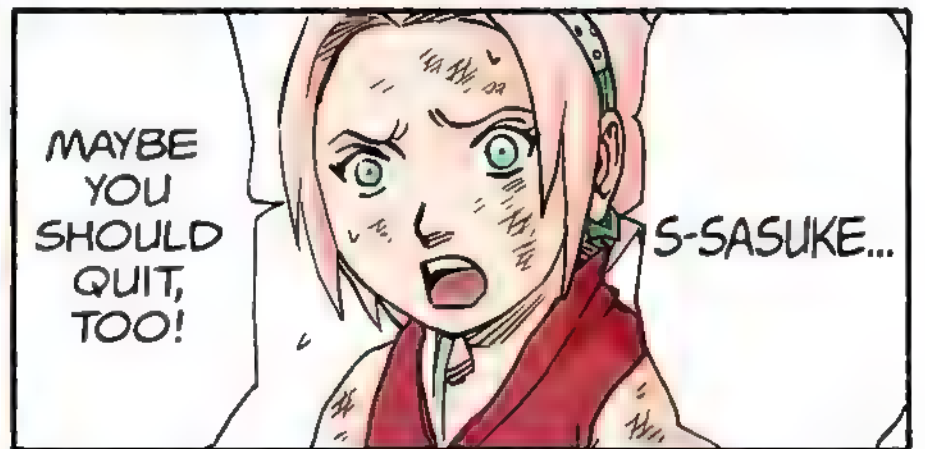


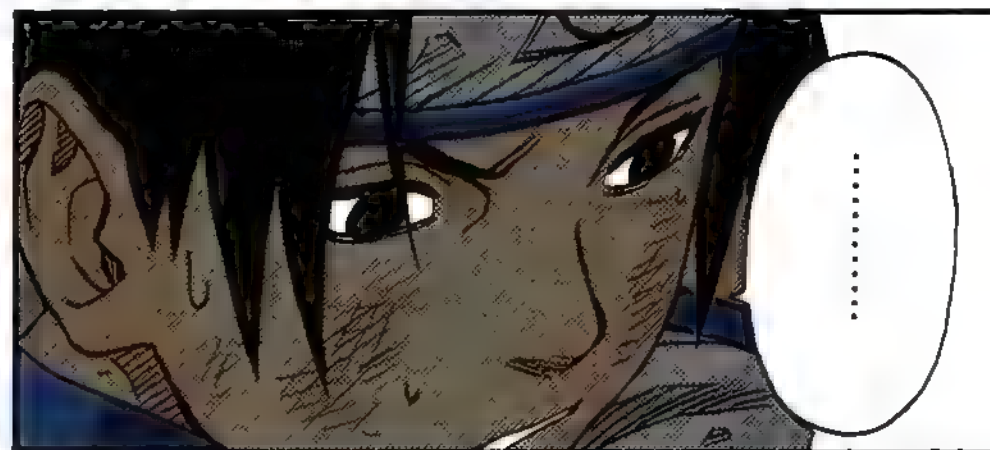
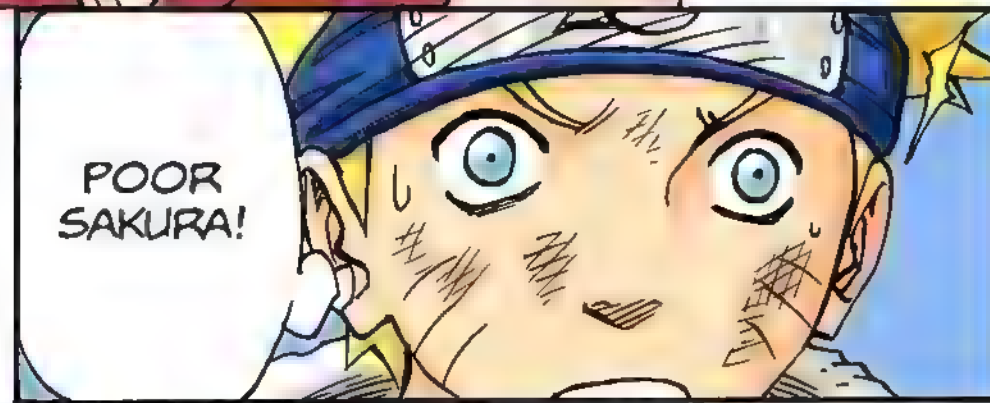
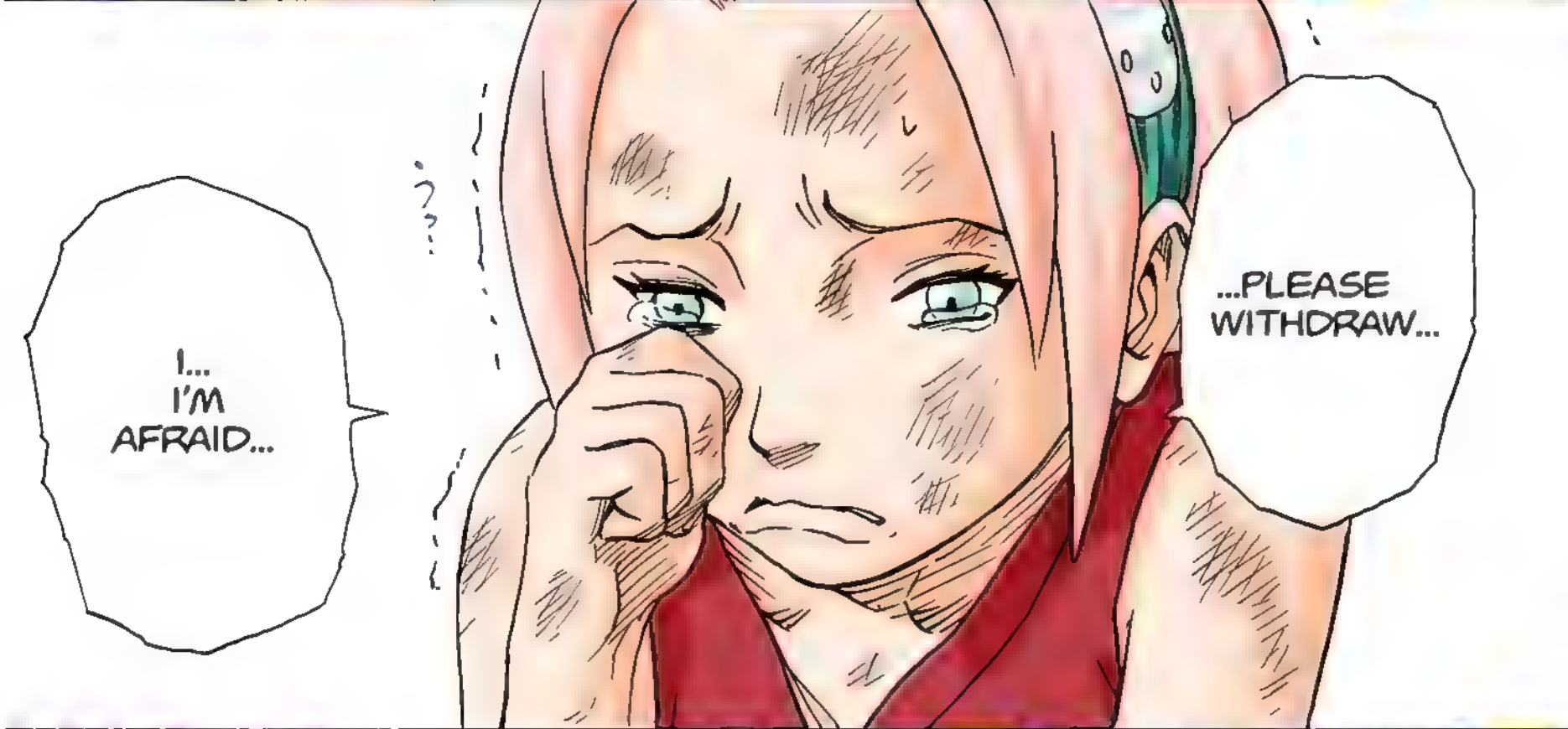
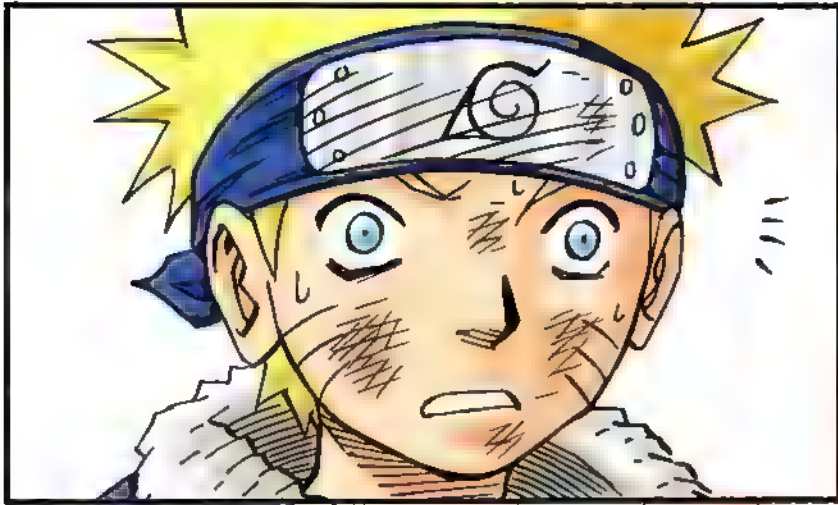
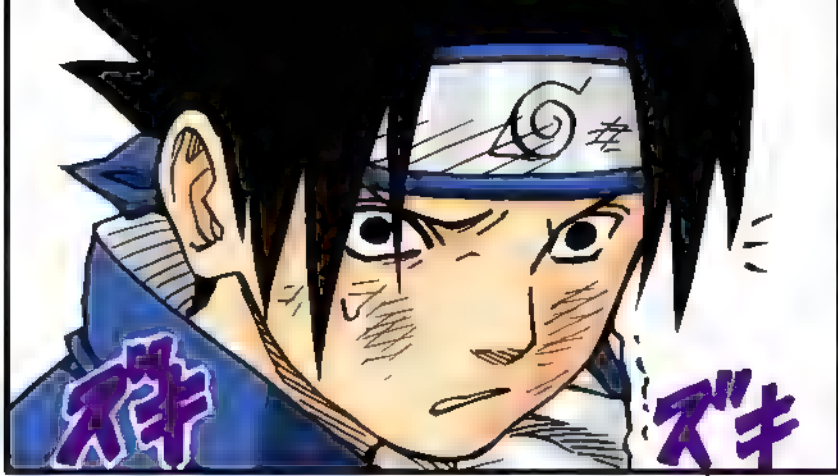
OH,
SASUKE...
I WAS
AFRAID
OF
THIS...

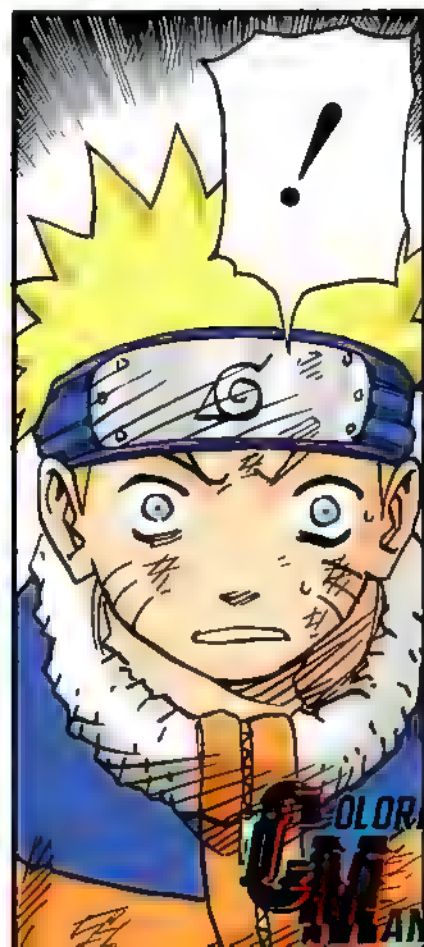
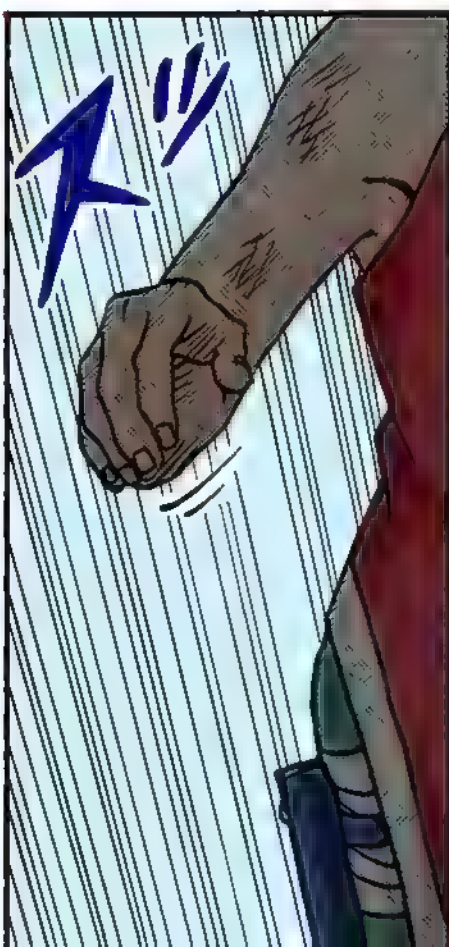


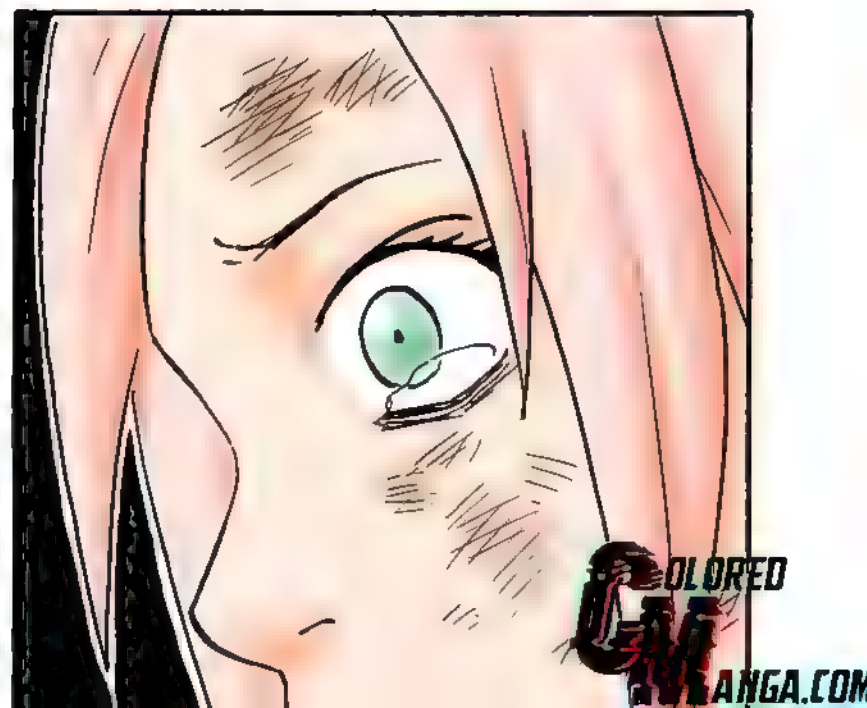
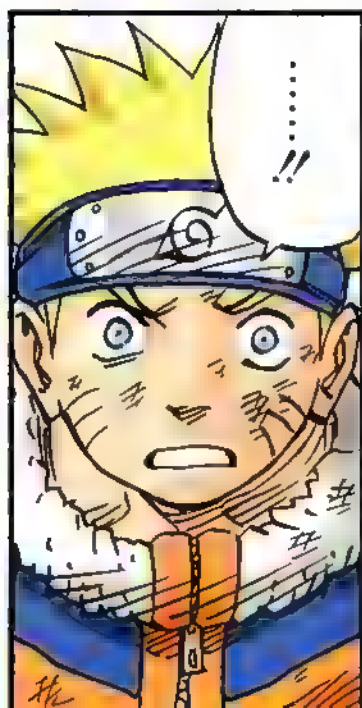
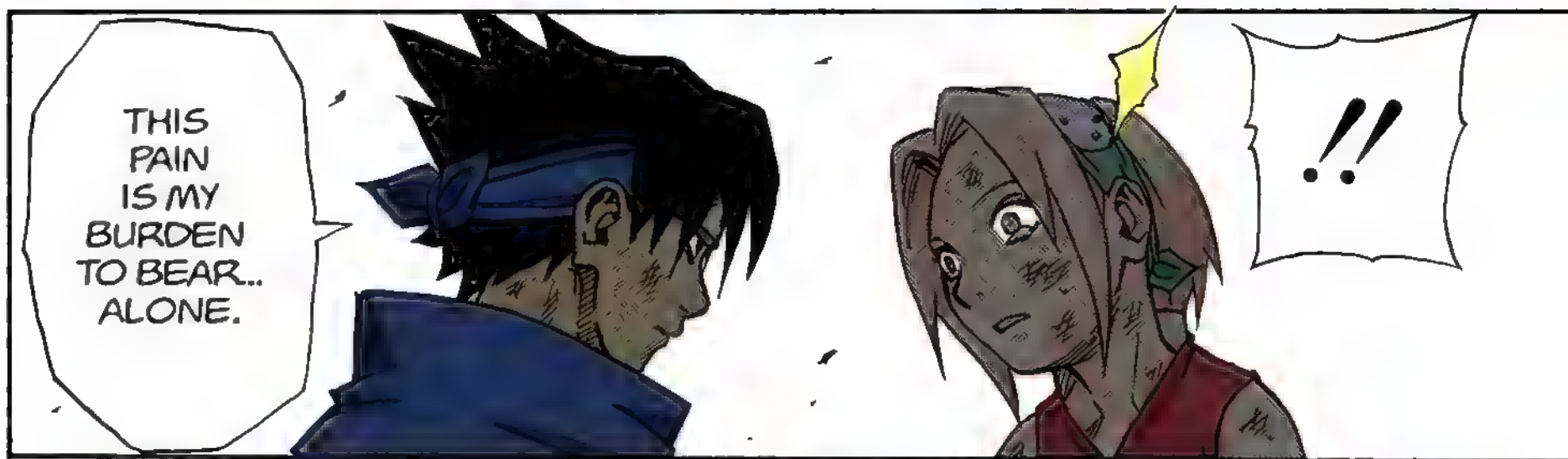
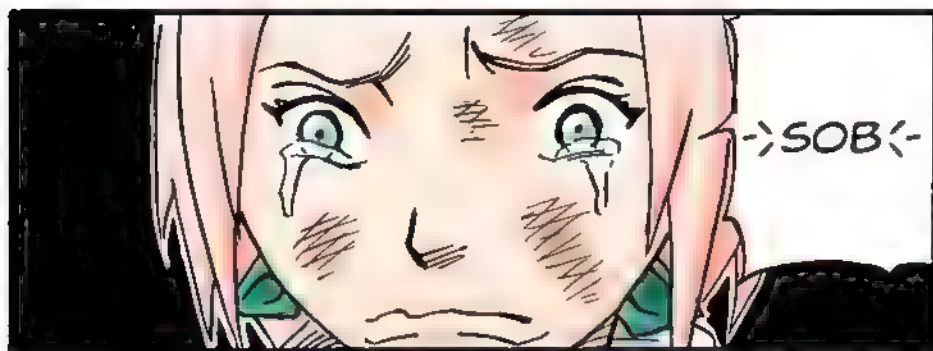
ANOTHER
WAVE OF PAIN...
THEY'RE
COMING MORE
AND MORE
FREQUENTLY...
BLAST IT!

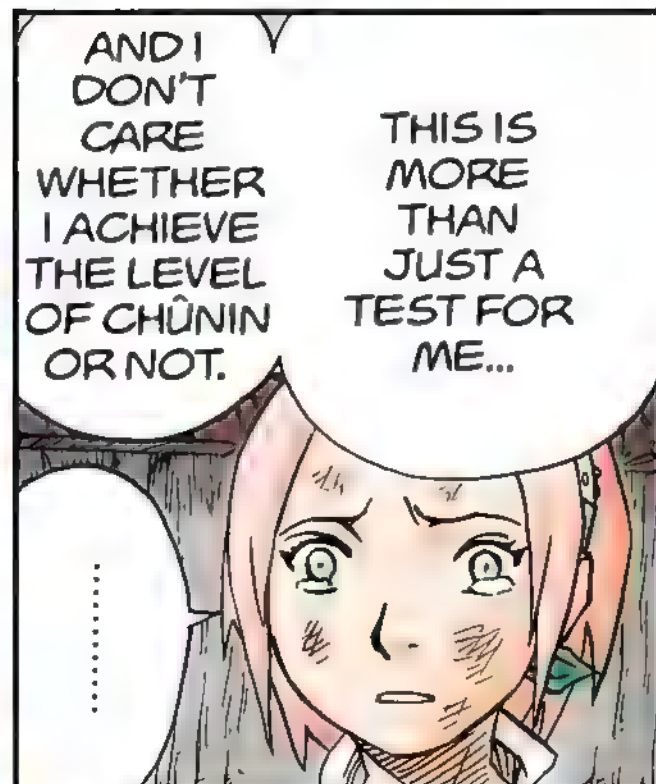
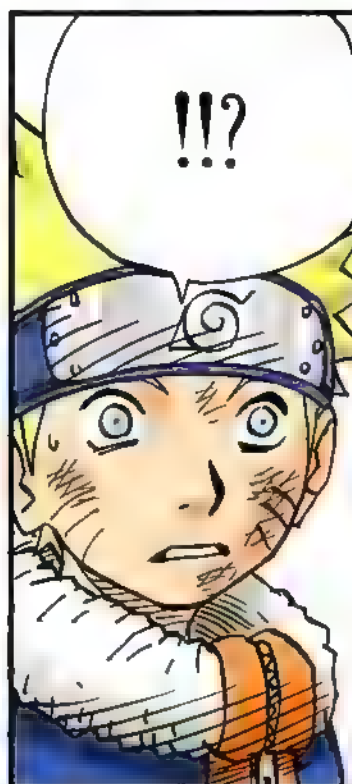
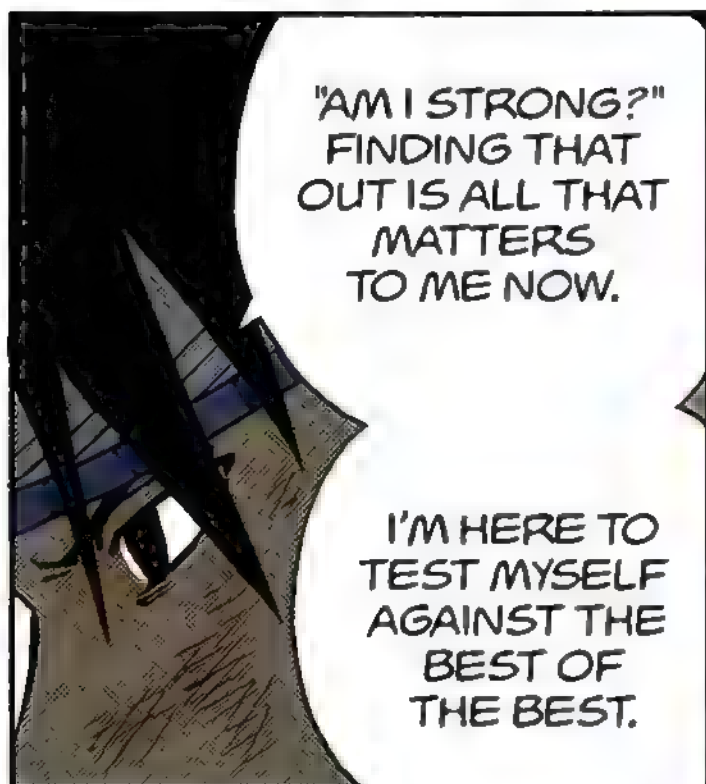
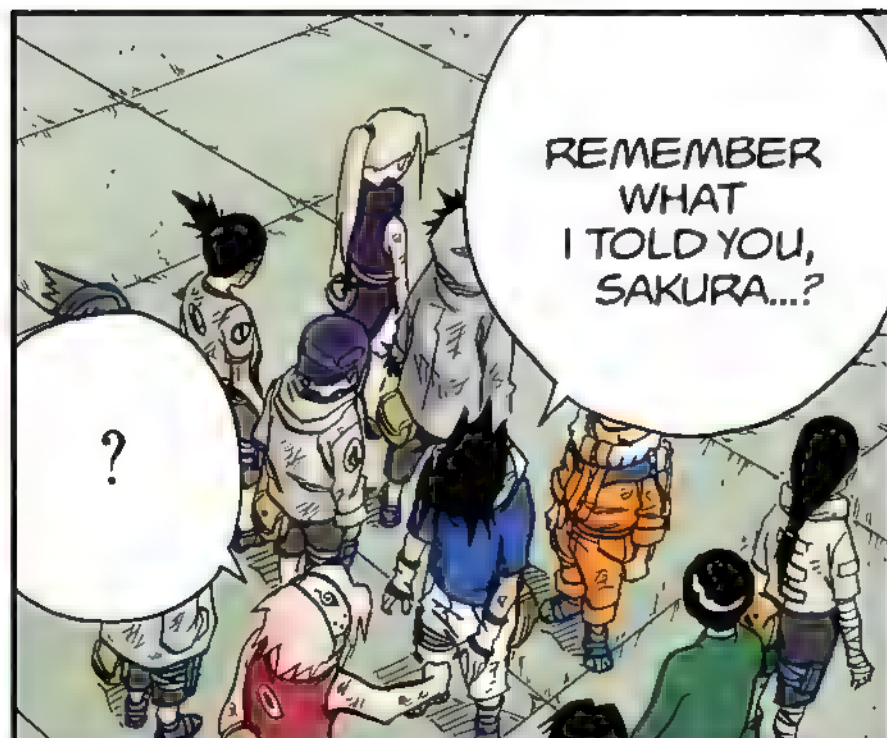
...OHH!

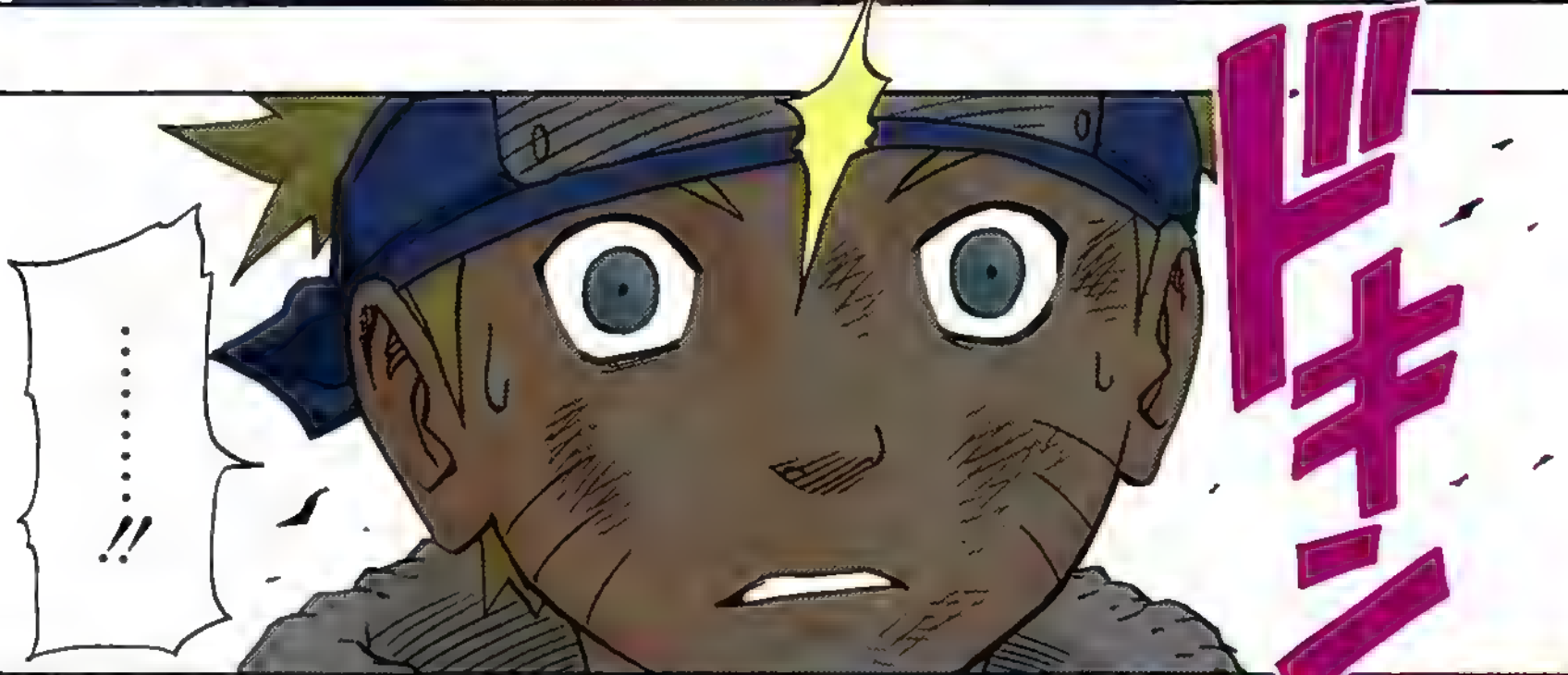
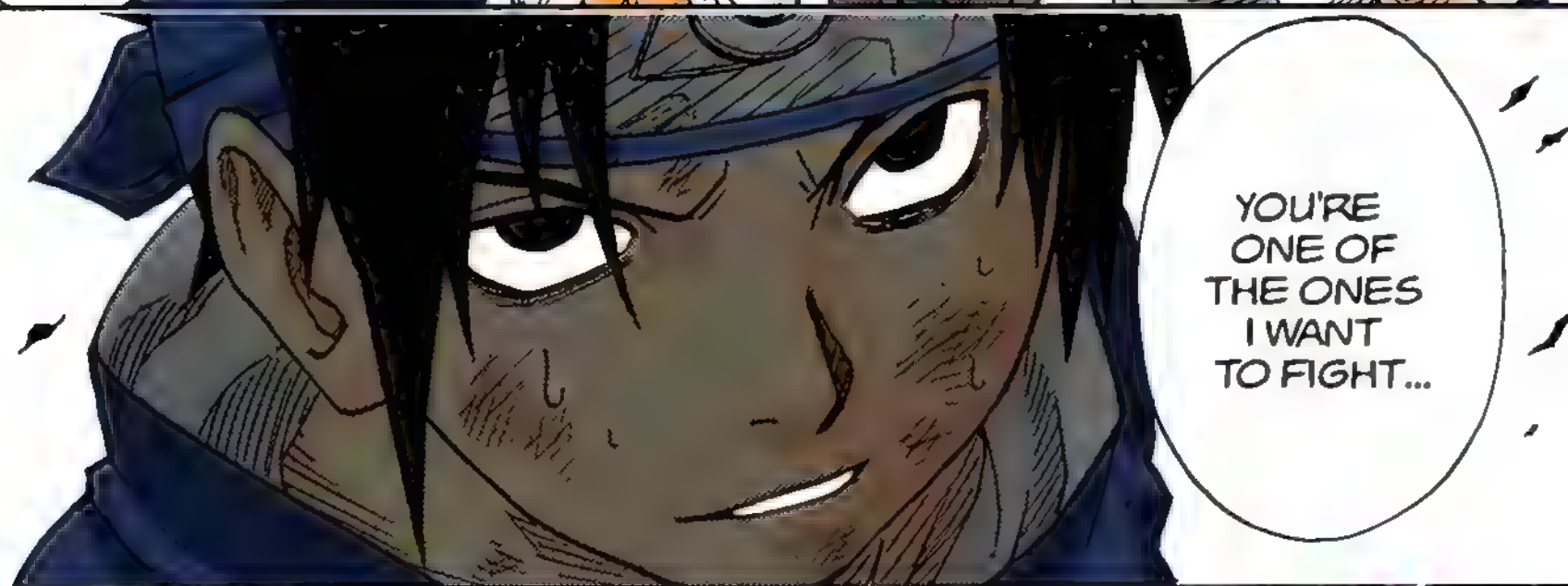


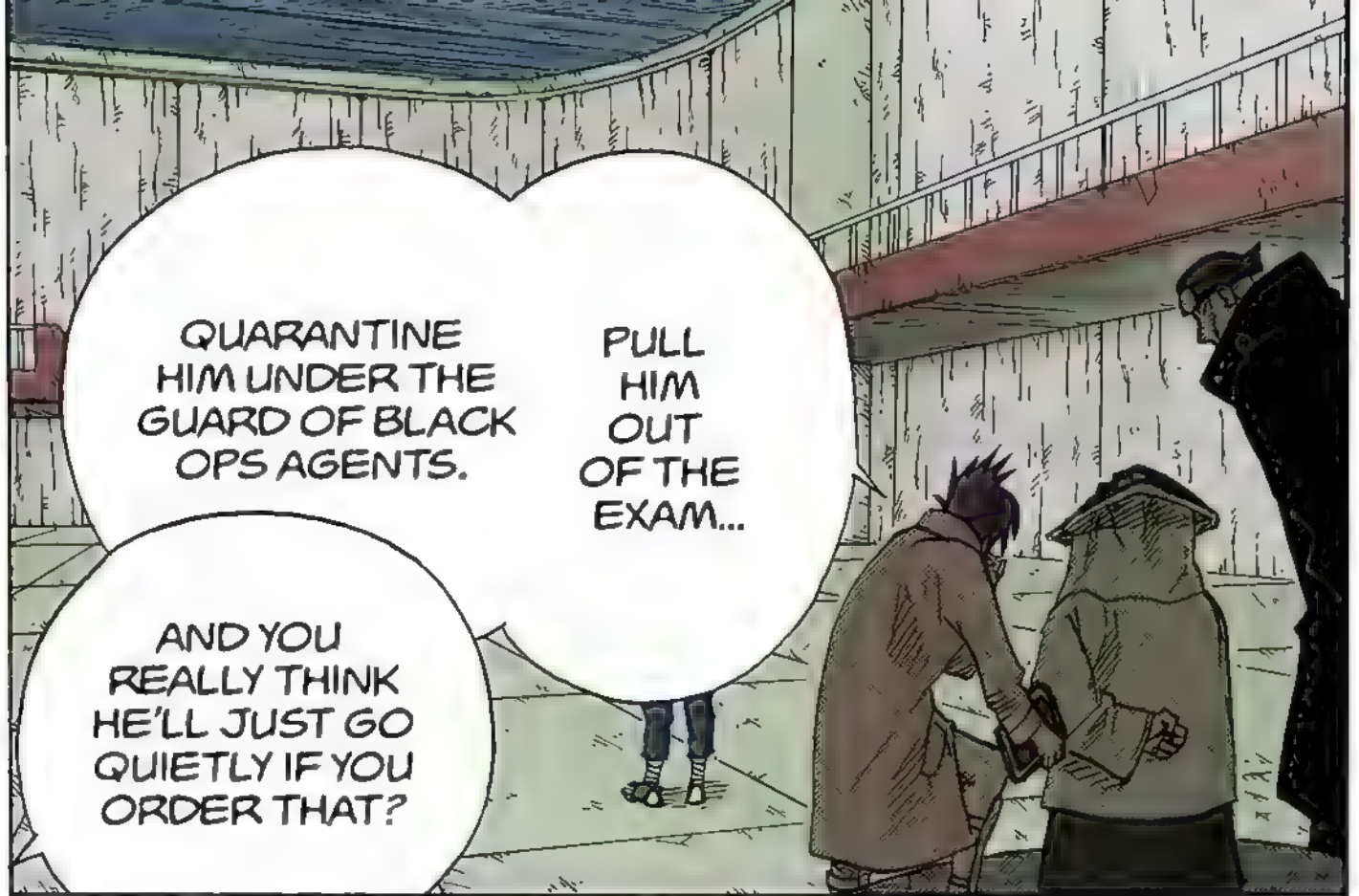












QUARANTINE HIM UNDER THE GUARD OF BLACK OPS AGENTS.

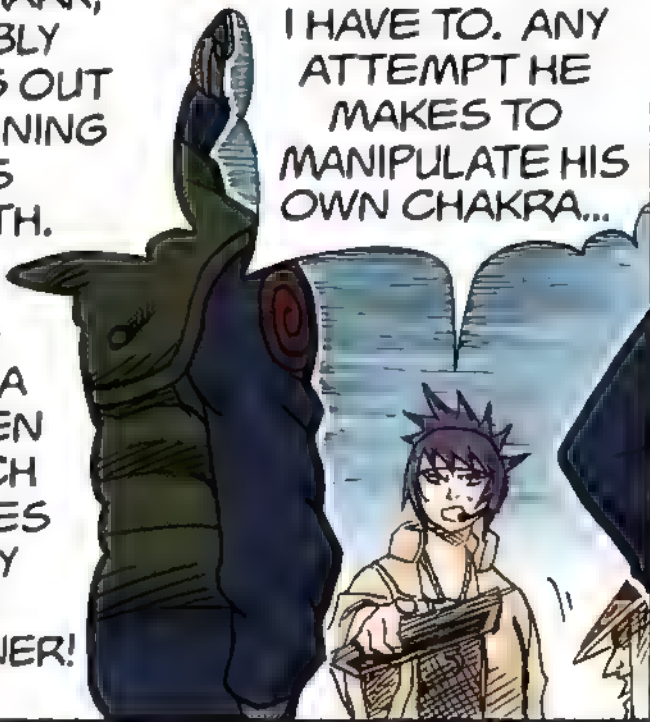
PULL HIM OUT OF THE EXAM...

AND YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL JUST GO QUIETLY IF YOU ORDER THAT?

...WILL PROVOKE A REACTION FROM THAT SPELL-MARK, FORCIBLY DRAWING OUT AND DRAINING ALL HIS STRENGTH.

DON'T TALK NONSENSE! I'LL STOP HIM BY FORCE IF I HAVE TO. ANY ATTEMPT HE MAKES TO MANIPULATE HIS OWN CHAKRA...

IT'S THE MARK OF A FORBIDDEN ART, WHICH DEBILITATES THE BODY OF THE PRACTITIONER!



...HE'S A MEMBER OF THE UCHIHA CLAN.

KEEP IN MIND...



L-LORD HOKAGE....!!

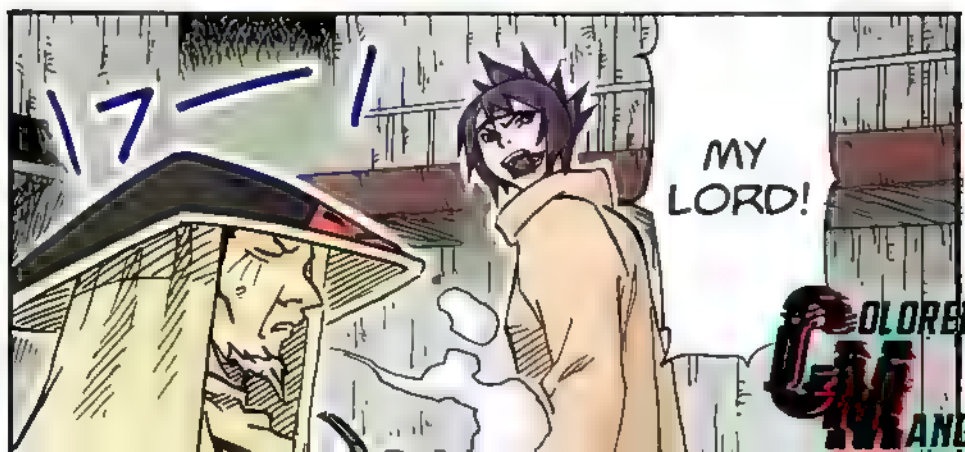
I AM STILL CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT OROCHIMARU SAID...

LET YOUNG SASUKE PROCEED AS HE IS, AND WE SHALL KEEP OUR EYES ON HIM.

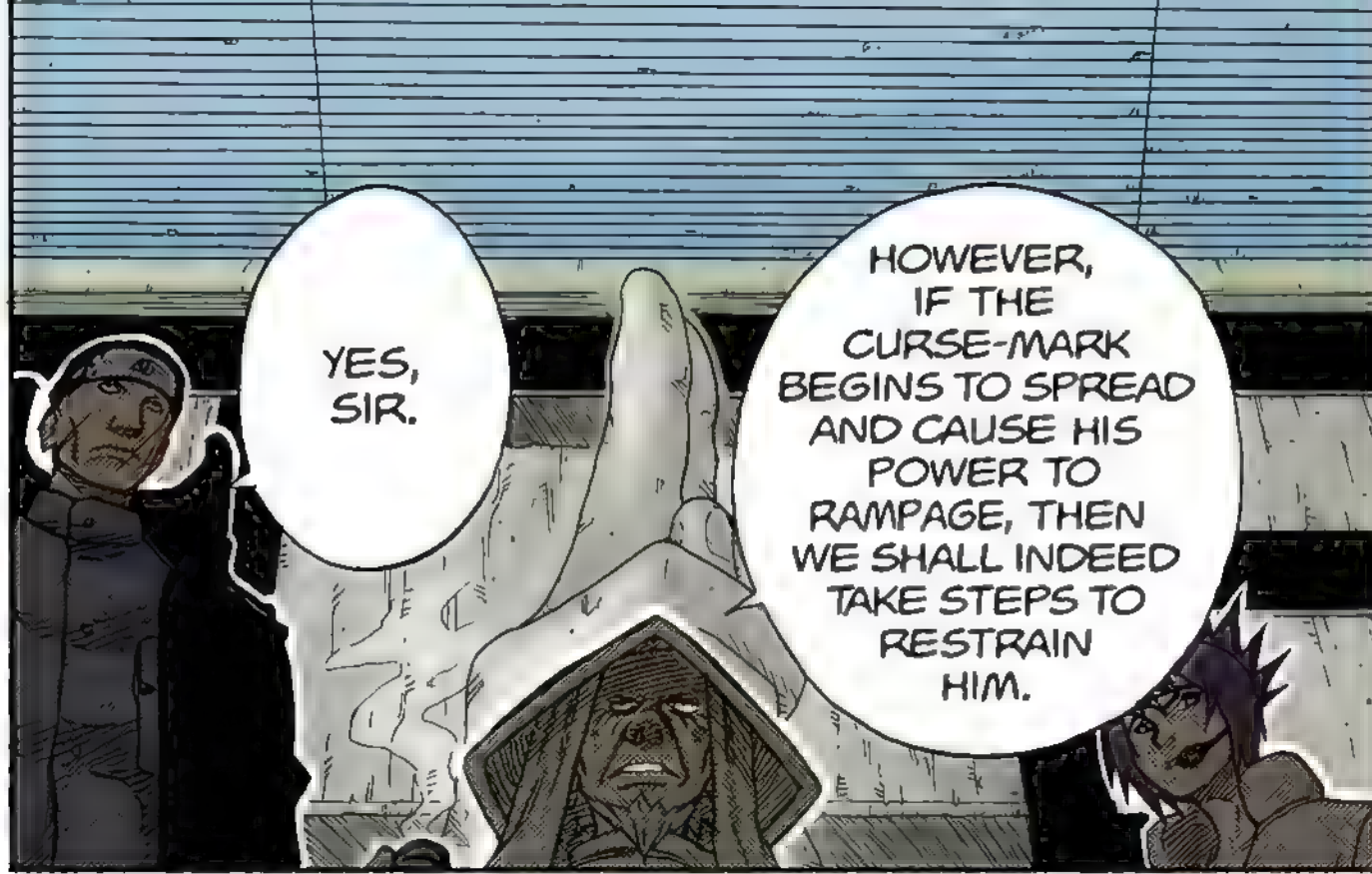


BY ALL RIGHTS, IT SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM ALREADY.

IT'S A MIRACLE THAT A CHILD LIKE HIM IS ABLE TO BEAR IT AT ALL.



MY LORD!



YES,
SIR.

HOWEVER,
IF THE
CURSE-MARK
BEGINS TO SPREAD
AND CAUSE HIS
POWER TO
RAMPAGE, THEN
WE SHALL INDEED
TAKE STEPS TO
RESTRAIN
HIM.

...WHICH WILL
CONSIST OF
INDIVIDUAL
COMBAT
MATCHES,
AS THOUGH
THIS WERE
PART OF A
TOURNAMENT.

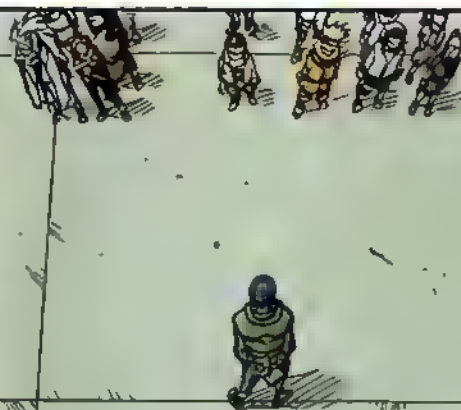


AHHH...
WELL
THEN...

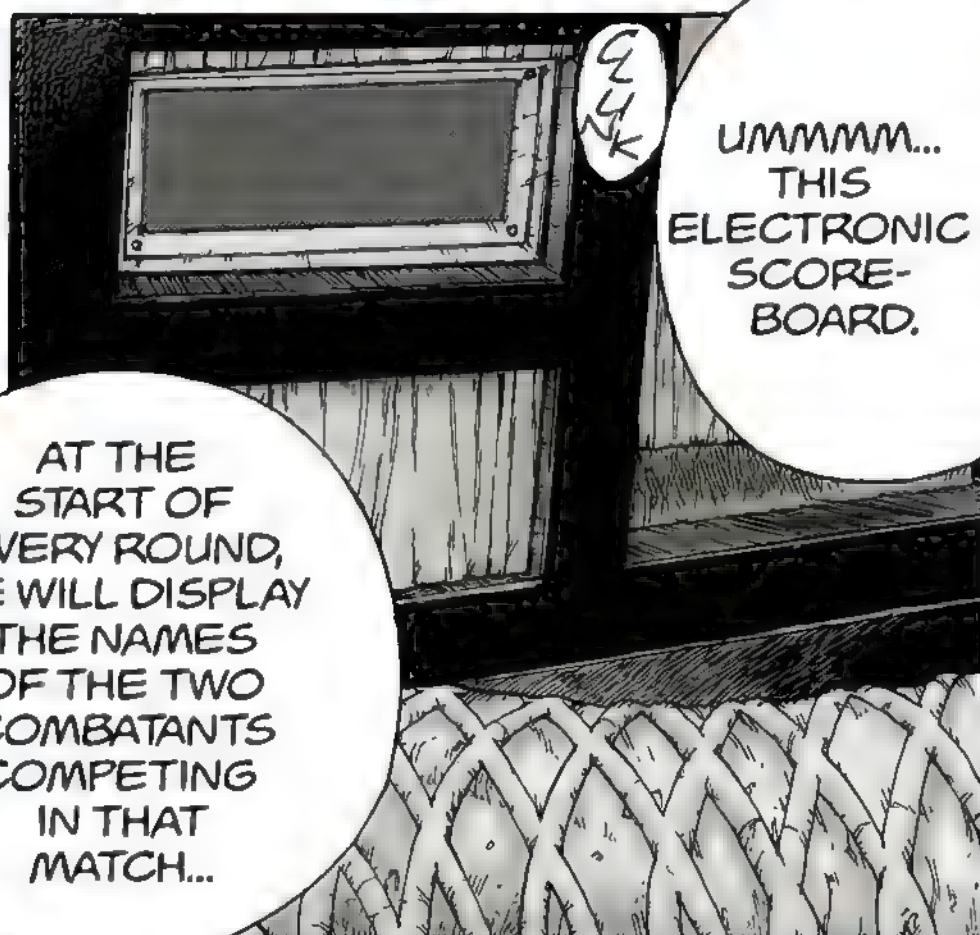
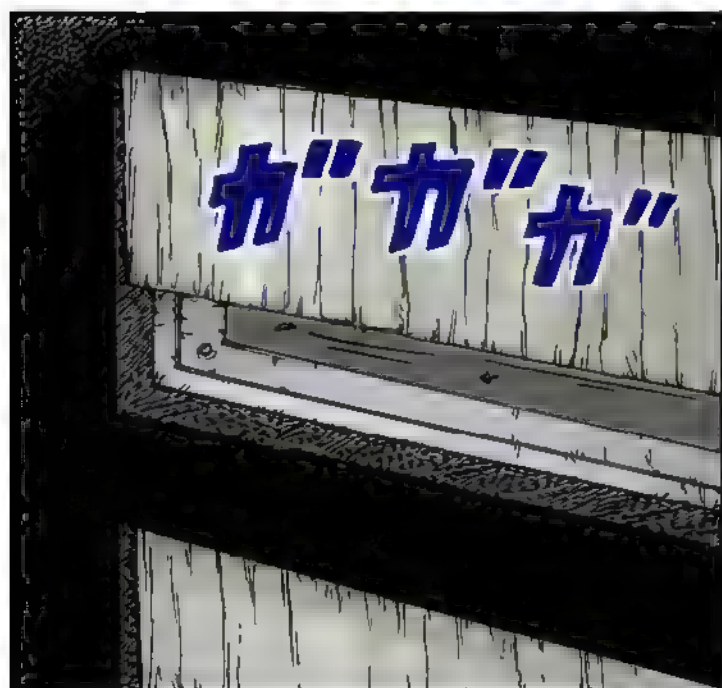
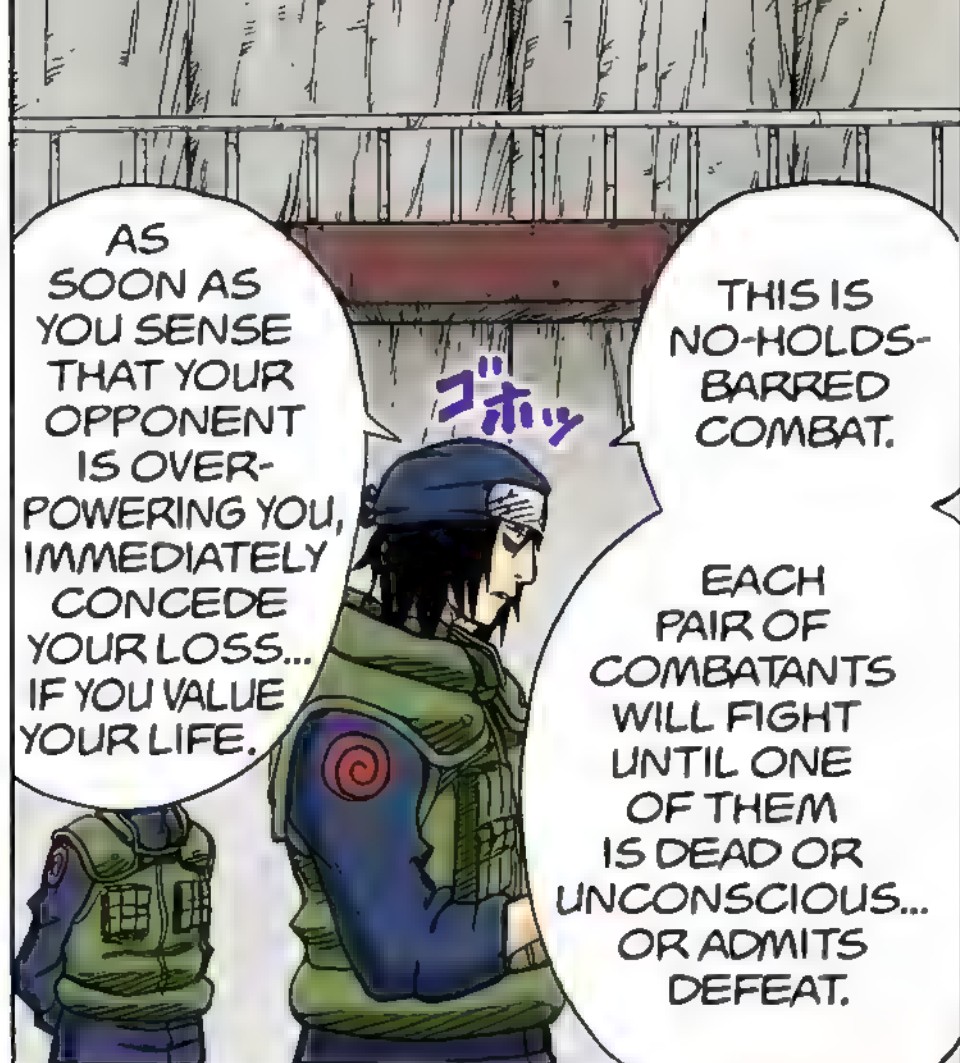
WE'LL
NOW
BEGIN
THE
PRELIMINARIES...

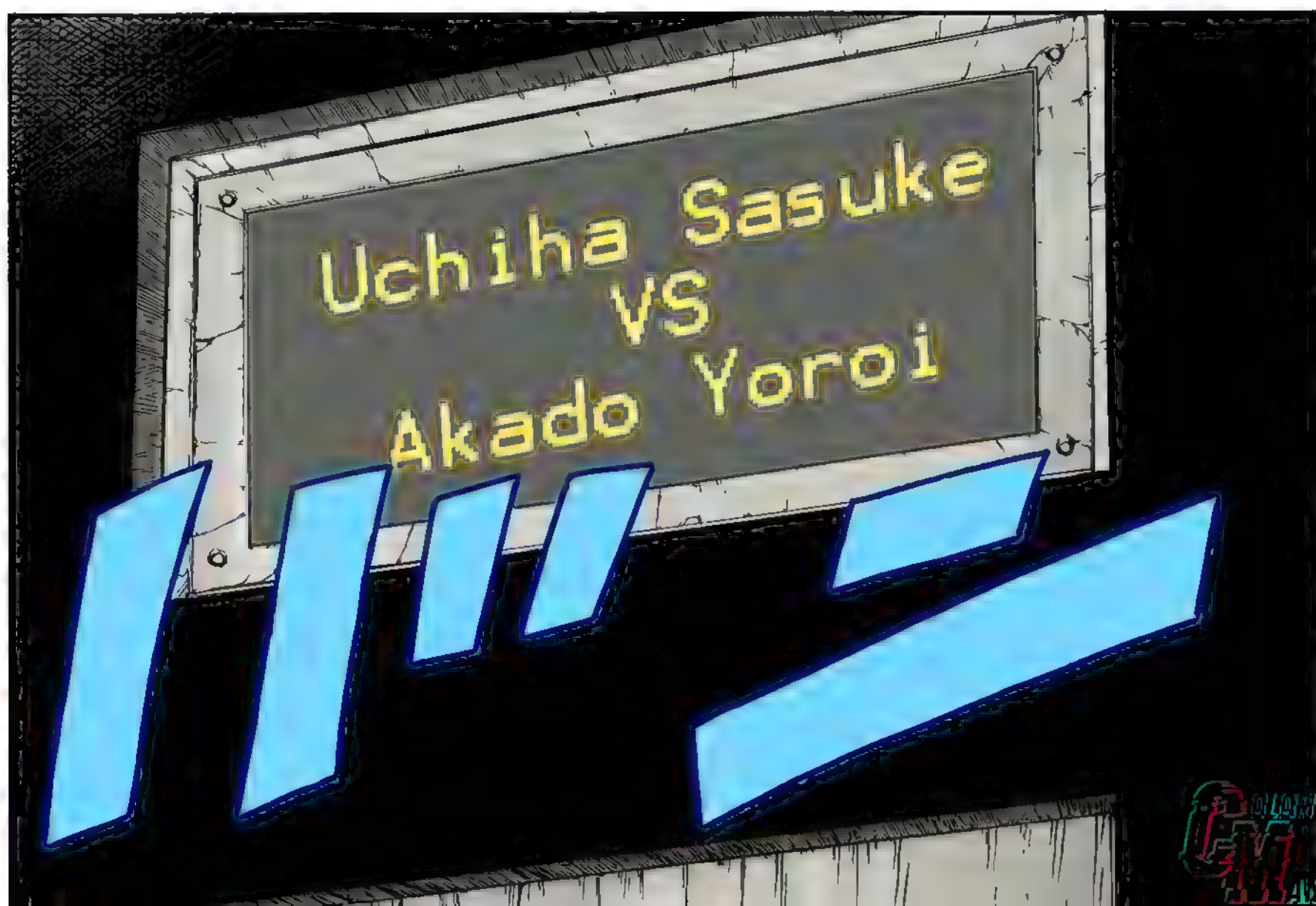
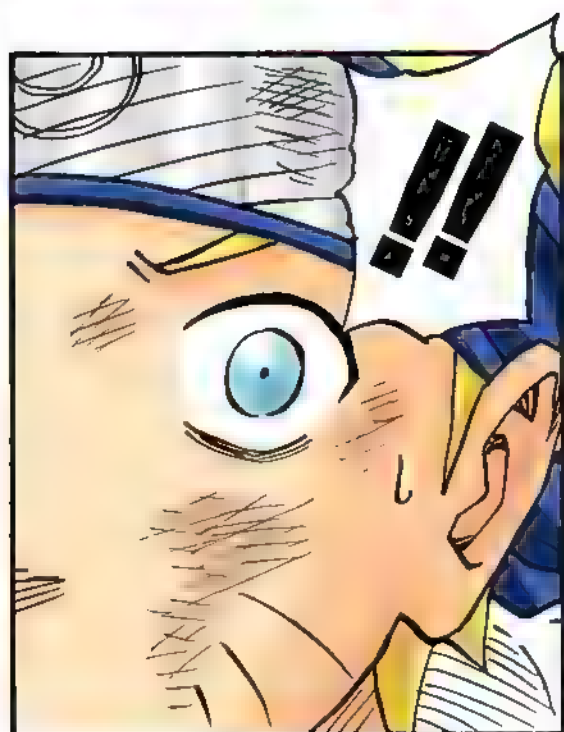


UMMM...
AND THE
VICTORS
OF THOSE
BOUTS WILL
ADVANCE TO
THE THIRD
EXAM.



AS THERE ARE
A TOTAL OF 20
COMBATANTS
REMAINING,
WE WILL HOLD
A TOTAL OF
10 BOUTS.

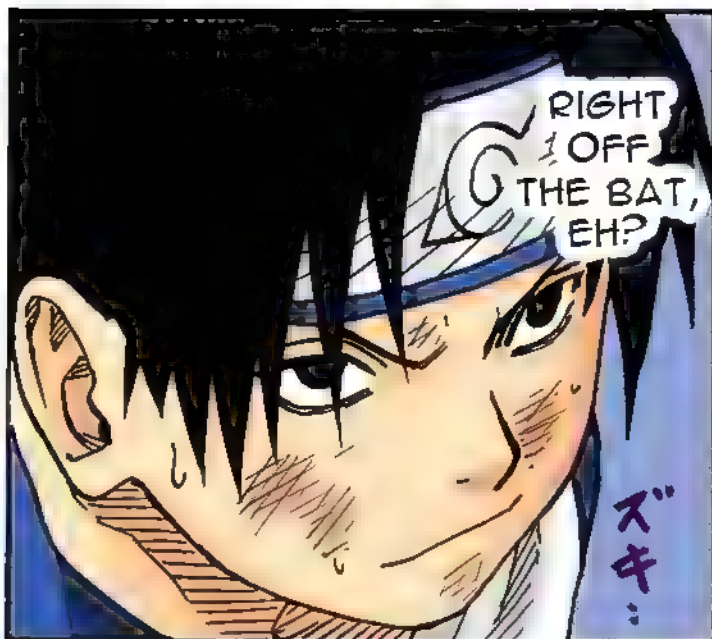






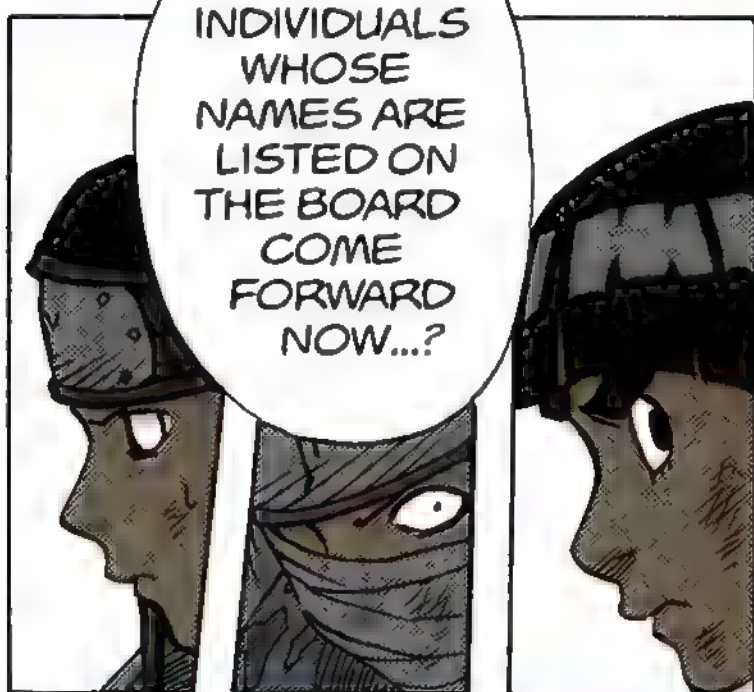
HEH...

I
COULDN'T
HAVE
PLANNED
IT BETTER!

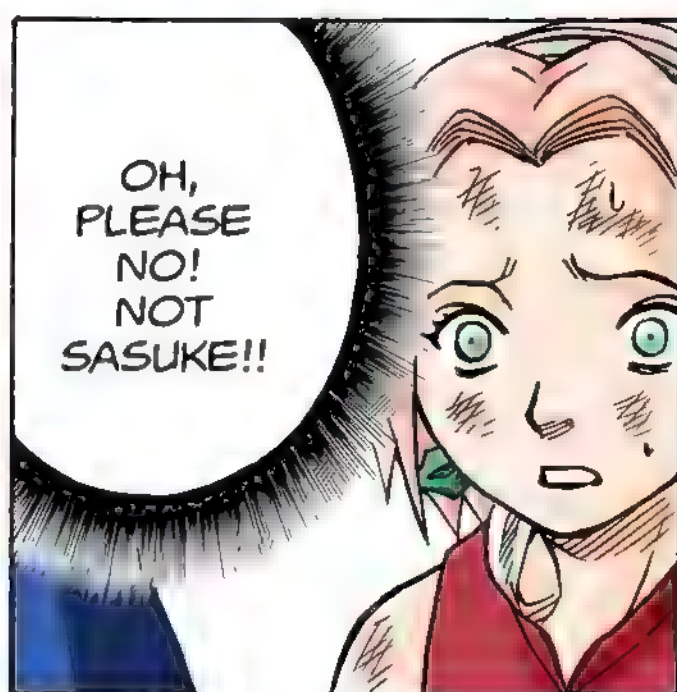
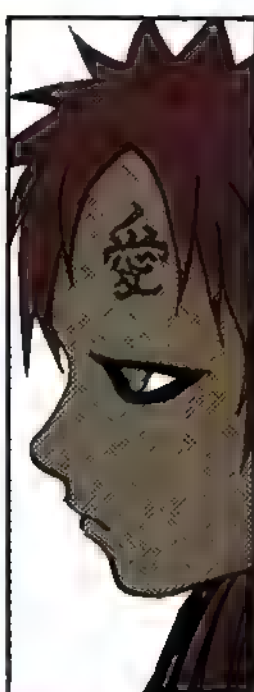


RIGHT
OFF
THE BAT,
EH?

ズキ



WILL THE
INDIVIDUALS
WHOSE
NAMES ARE
LISTED ON
THE BOARD
COME
FORWARD
NOW...?



OH,
PLEASE
NO!
NOT
SASUKE!!



AKADO YOROI,
UCHIHA SASUKE...
YOU TWO
HAVE BEEN
SELECTED
TO COMPETE
IN THE FIRST
BOUT. ANY
OBJECTIONS?

I'M
GOOD...

NONE...

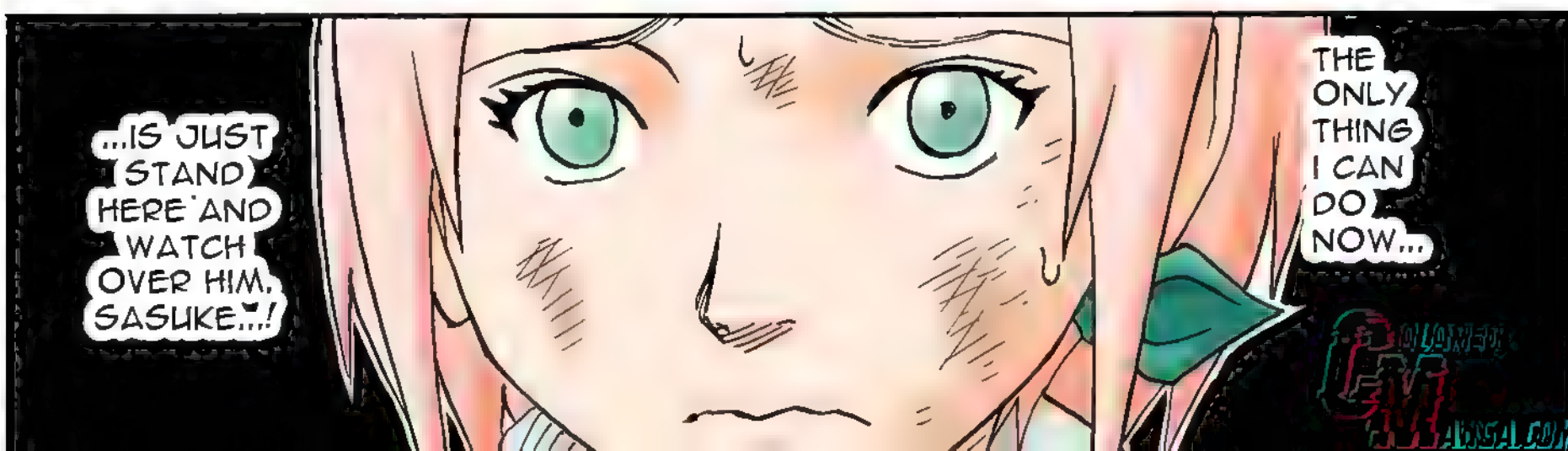
ナンバー

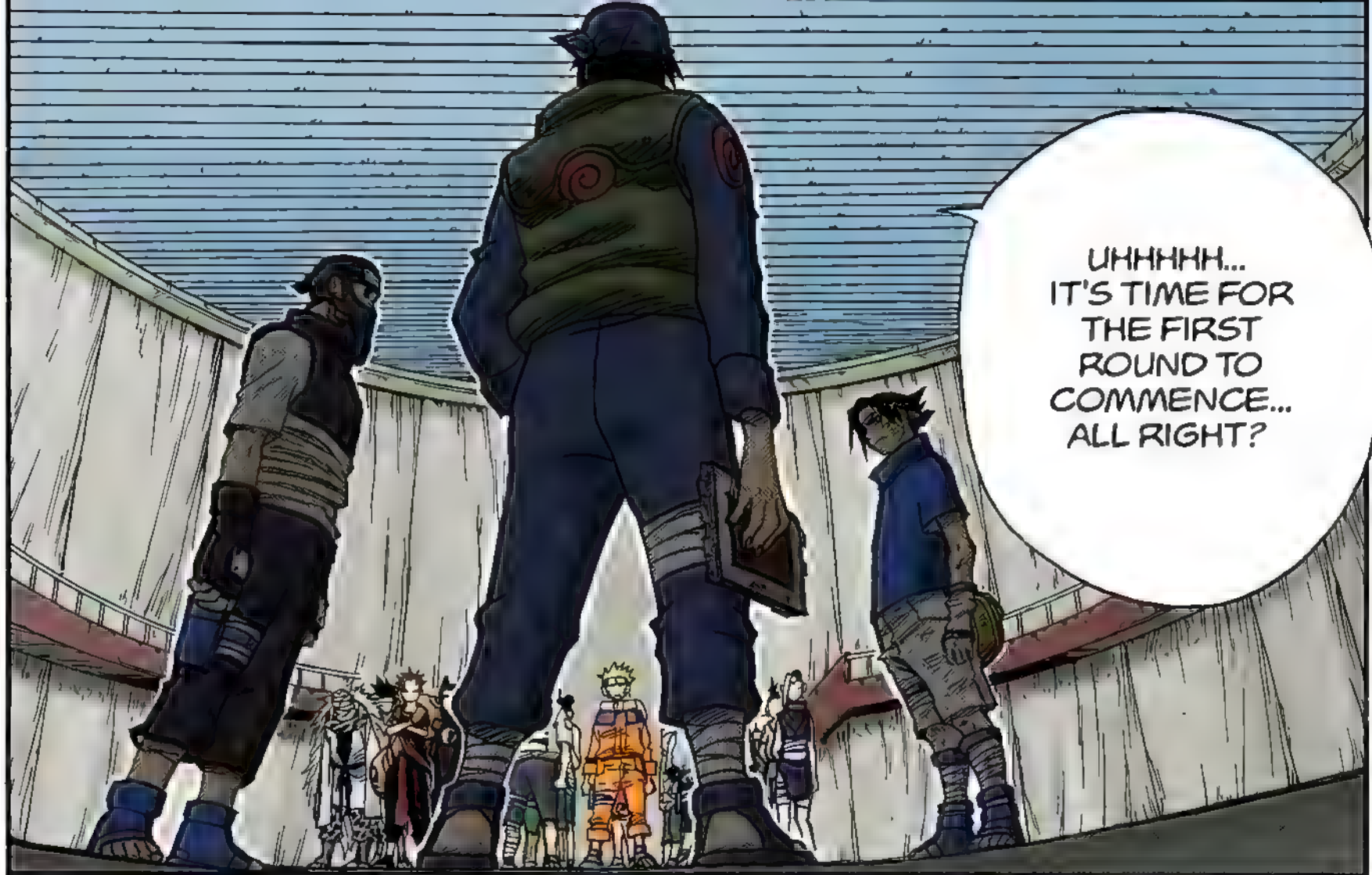


67:

UNHOLY GIFTS!



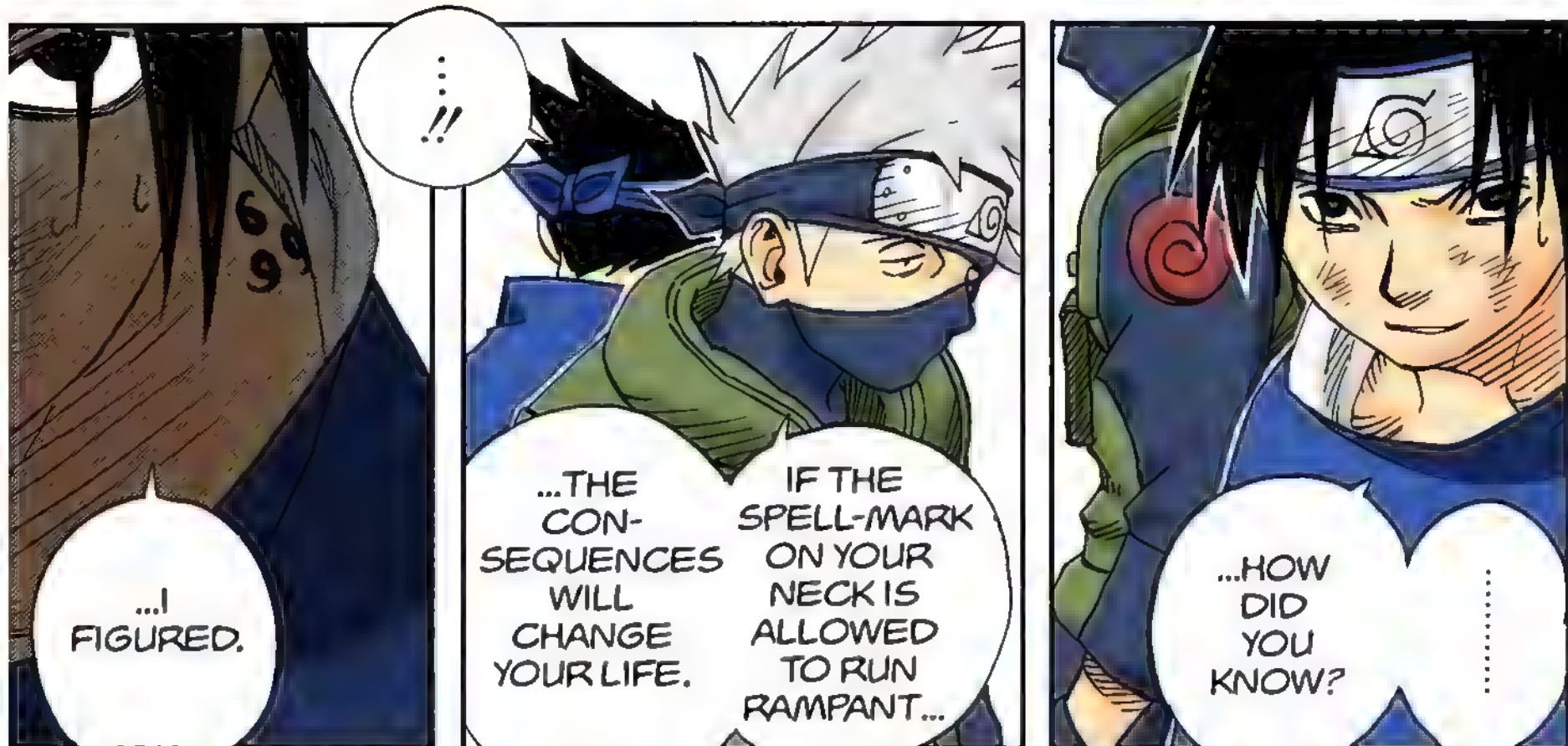






DON'T
USE
THE
SHARINGAN.

!



...I
FIGURED.

...THE
CON-
SEQUENCES
WILL
CHANGE
YOUR LIFE.

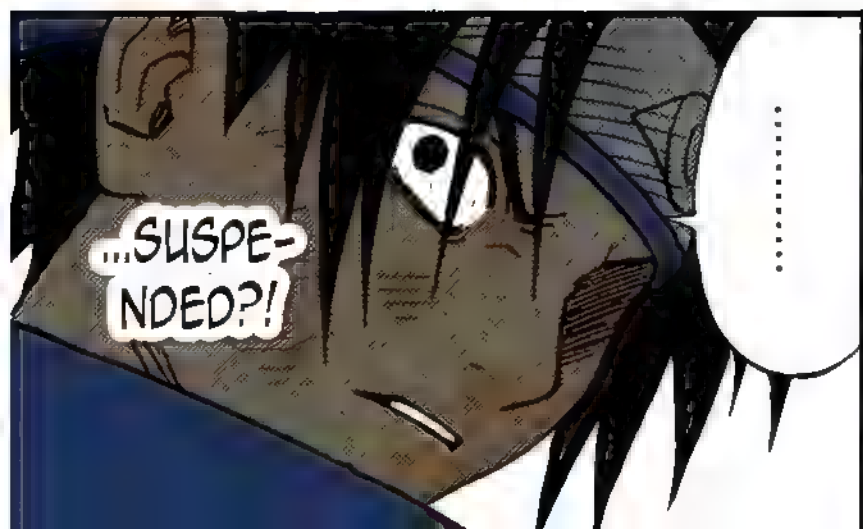
IF THE
SPELL-MARK
ON YOUR
NECK IS
ALLOWED
TO RUN
RAMPANT...

...HOW
DID
YOU
KNOW?

...
!!



!!

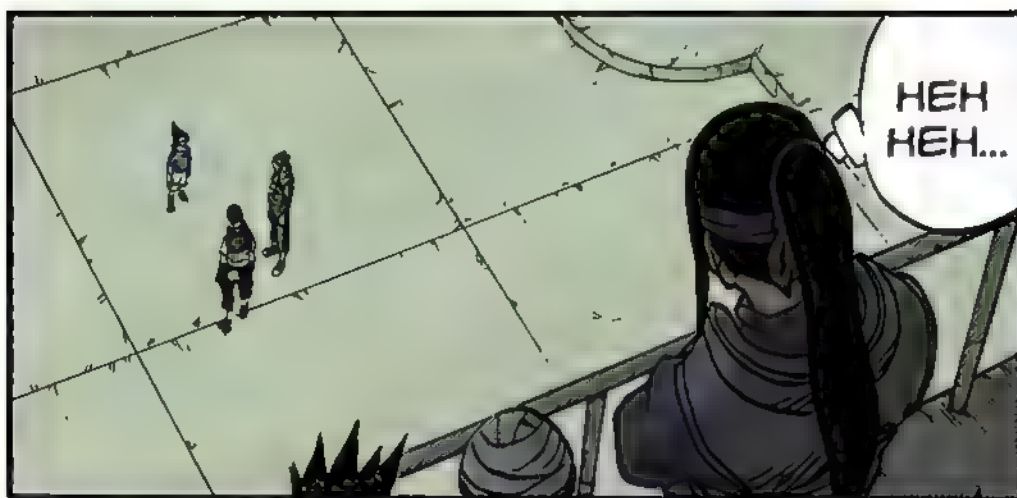


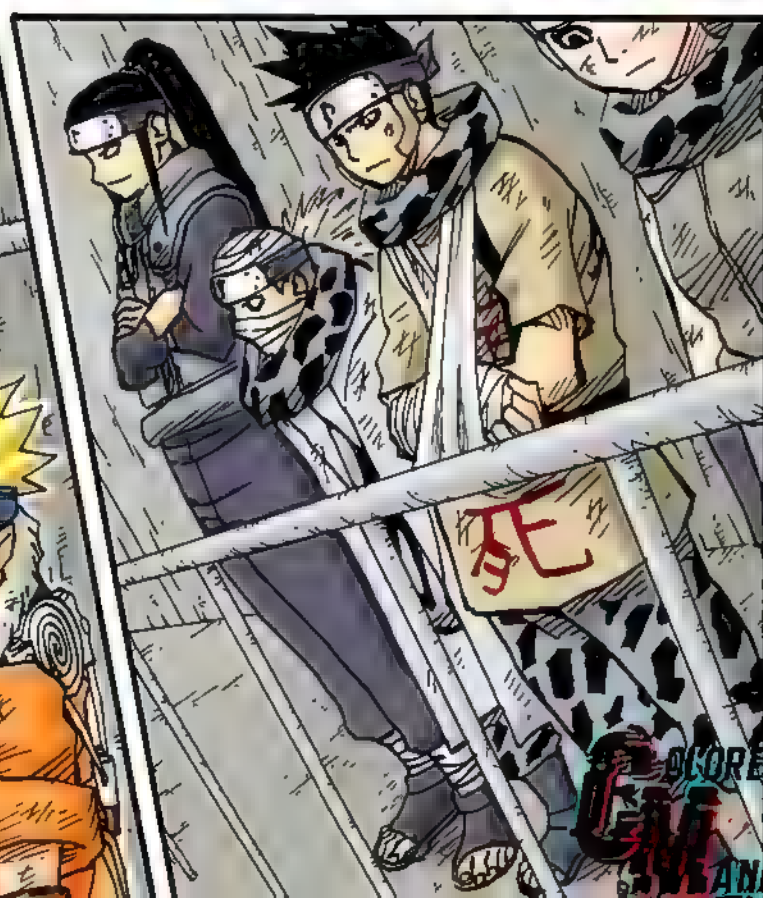
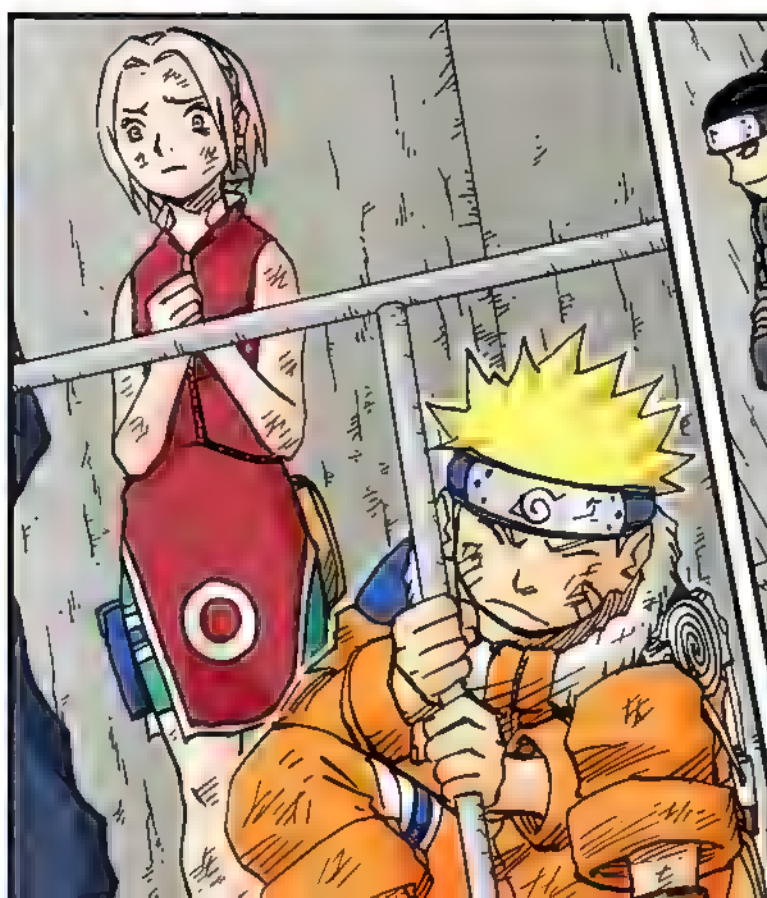
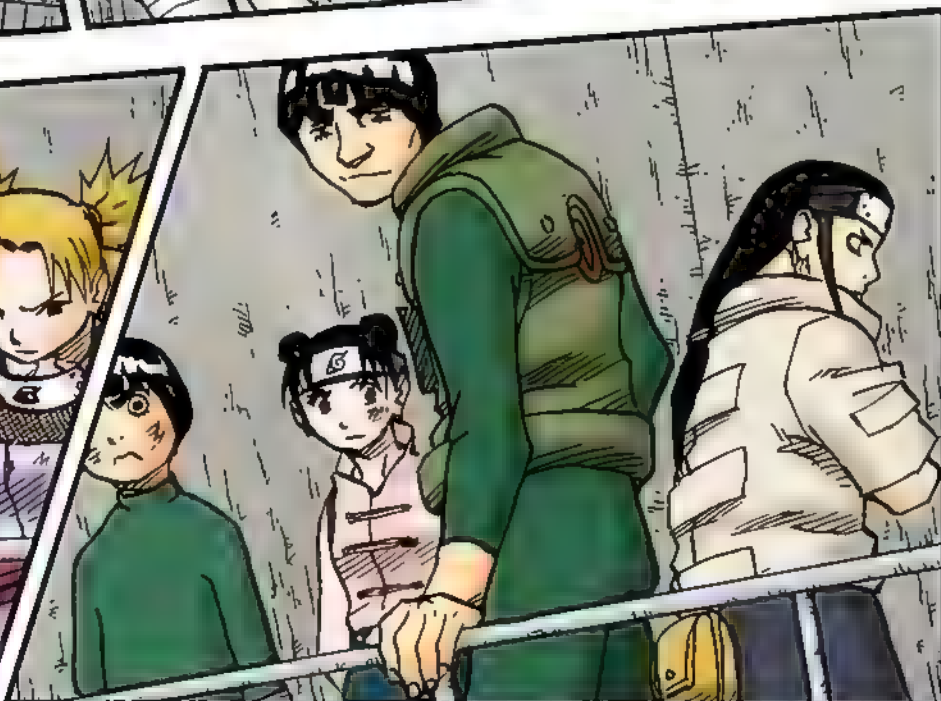
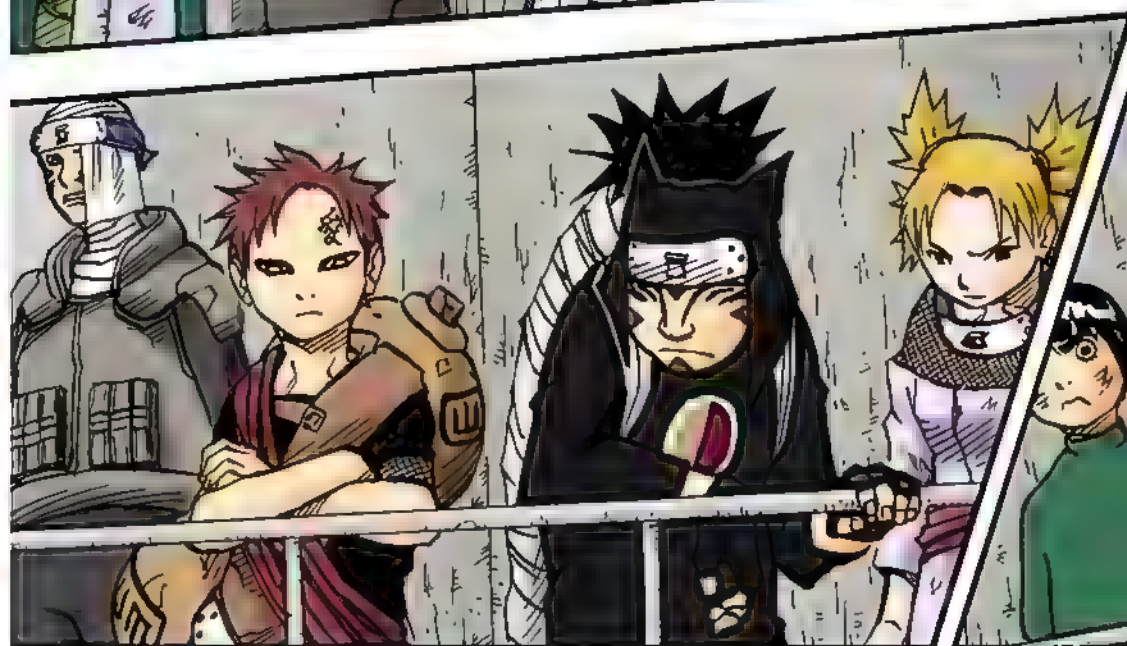
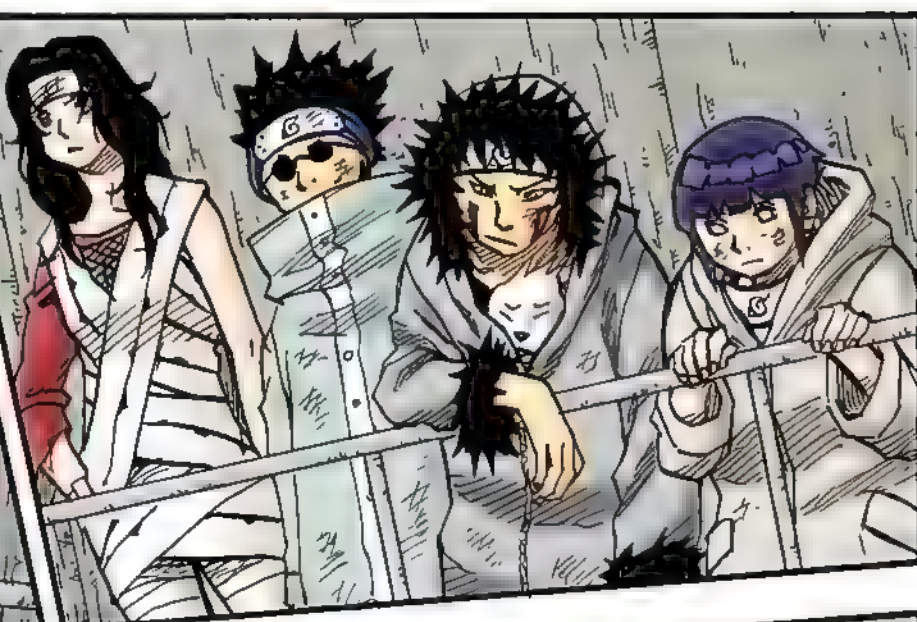
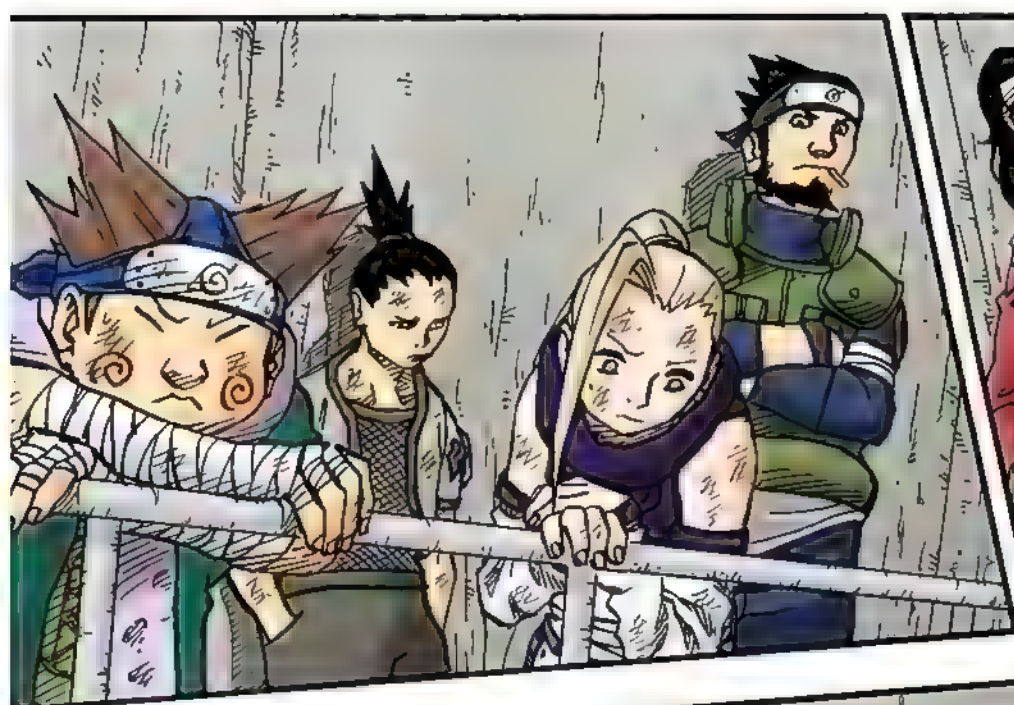
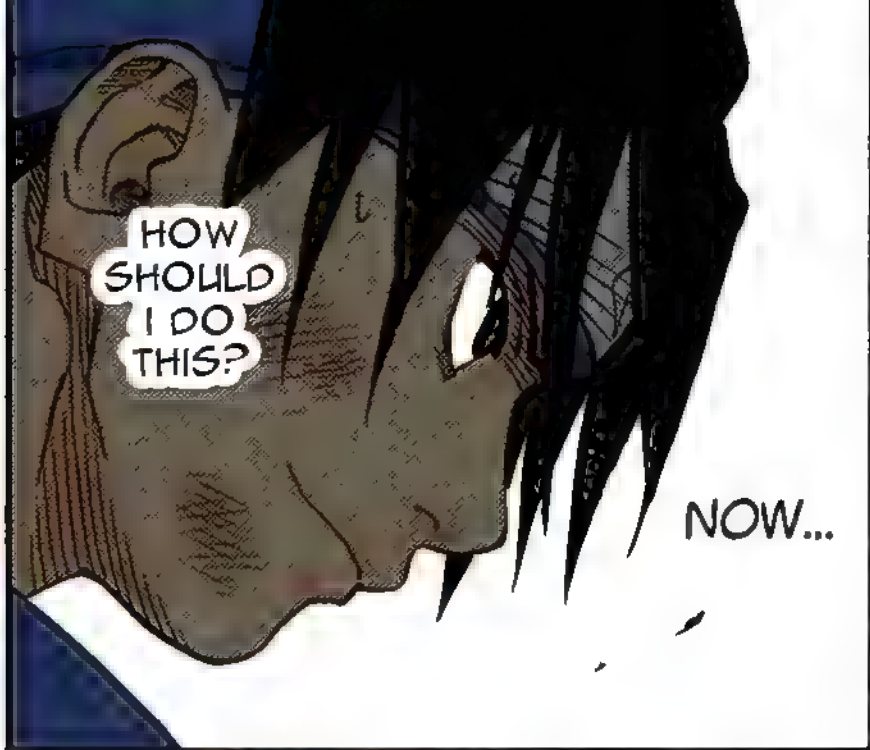
...SUSPE-
NDED?!

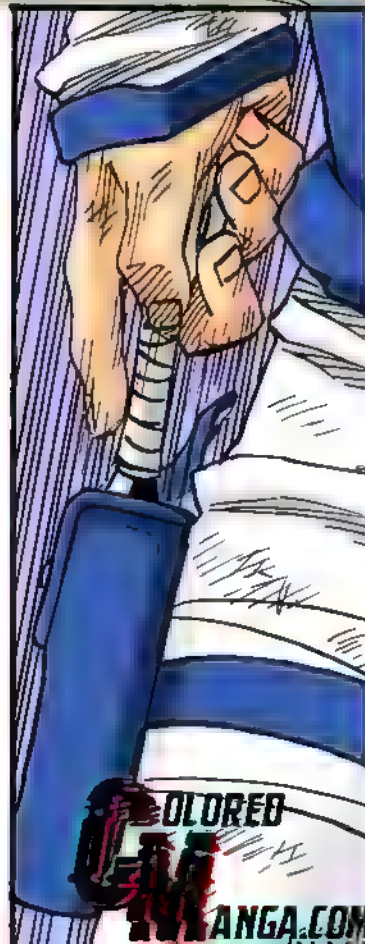
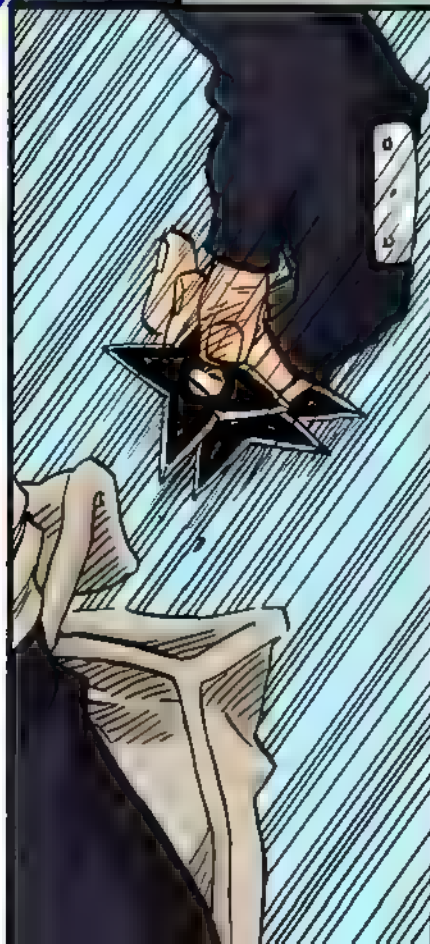


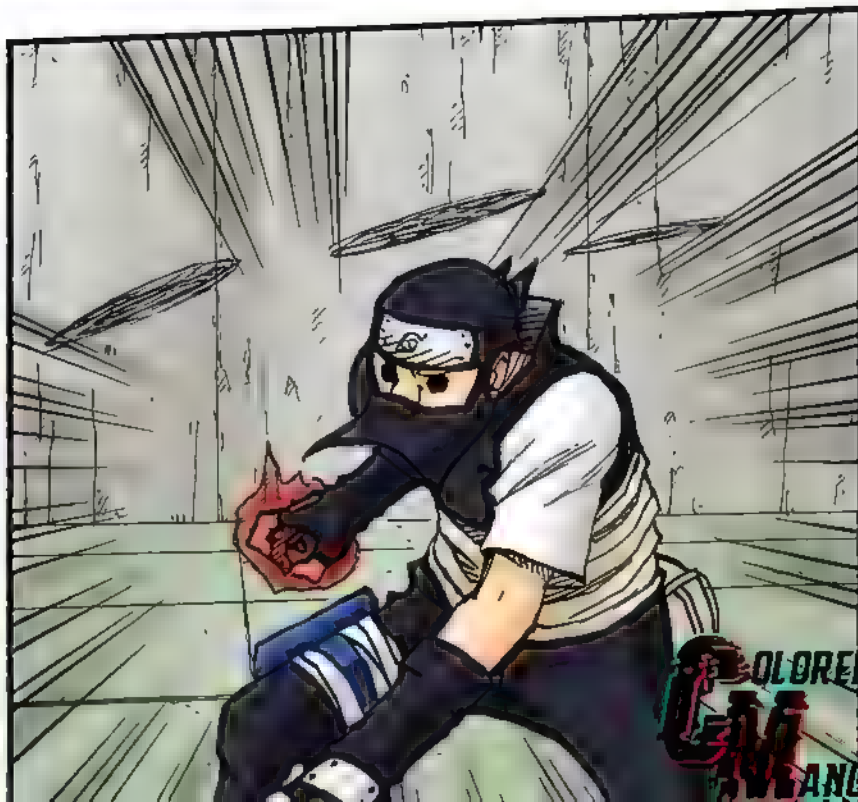
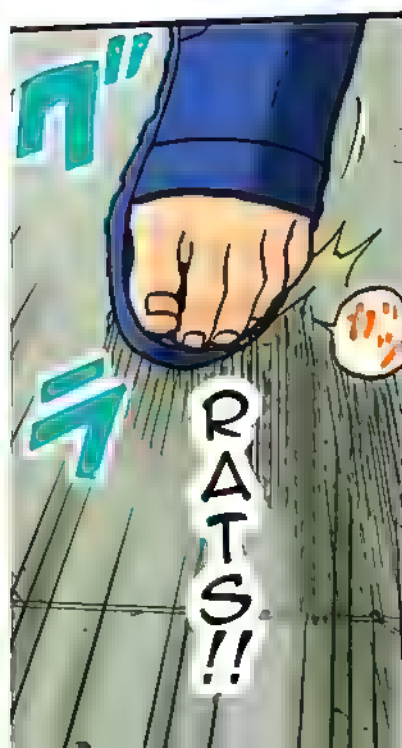
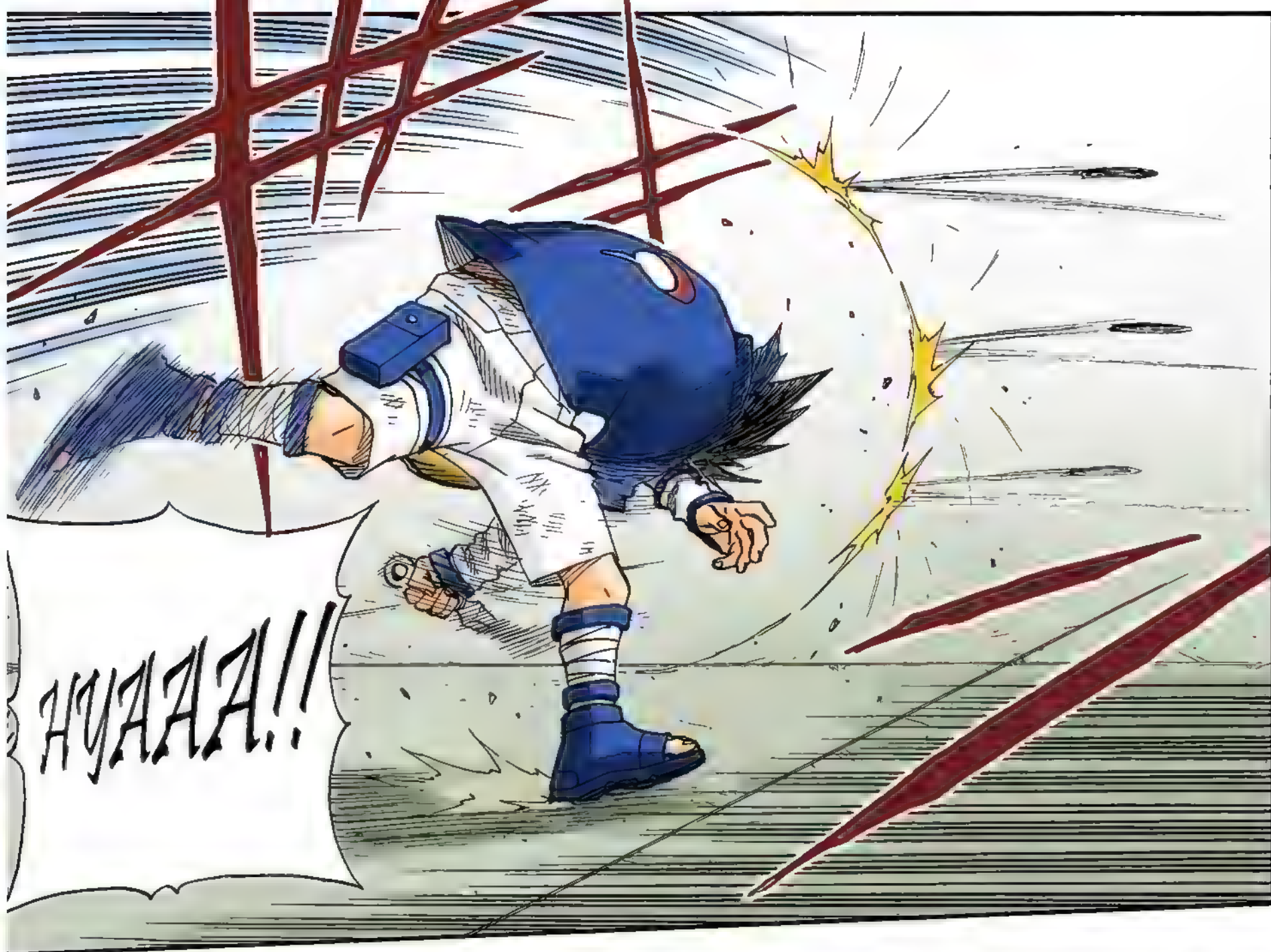
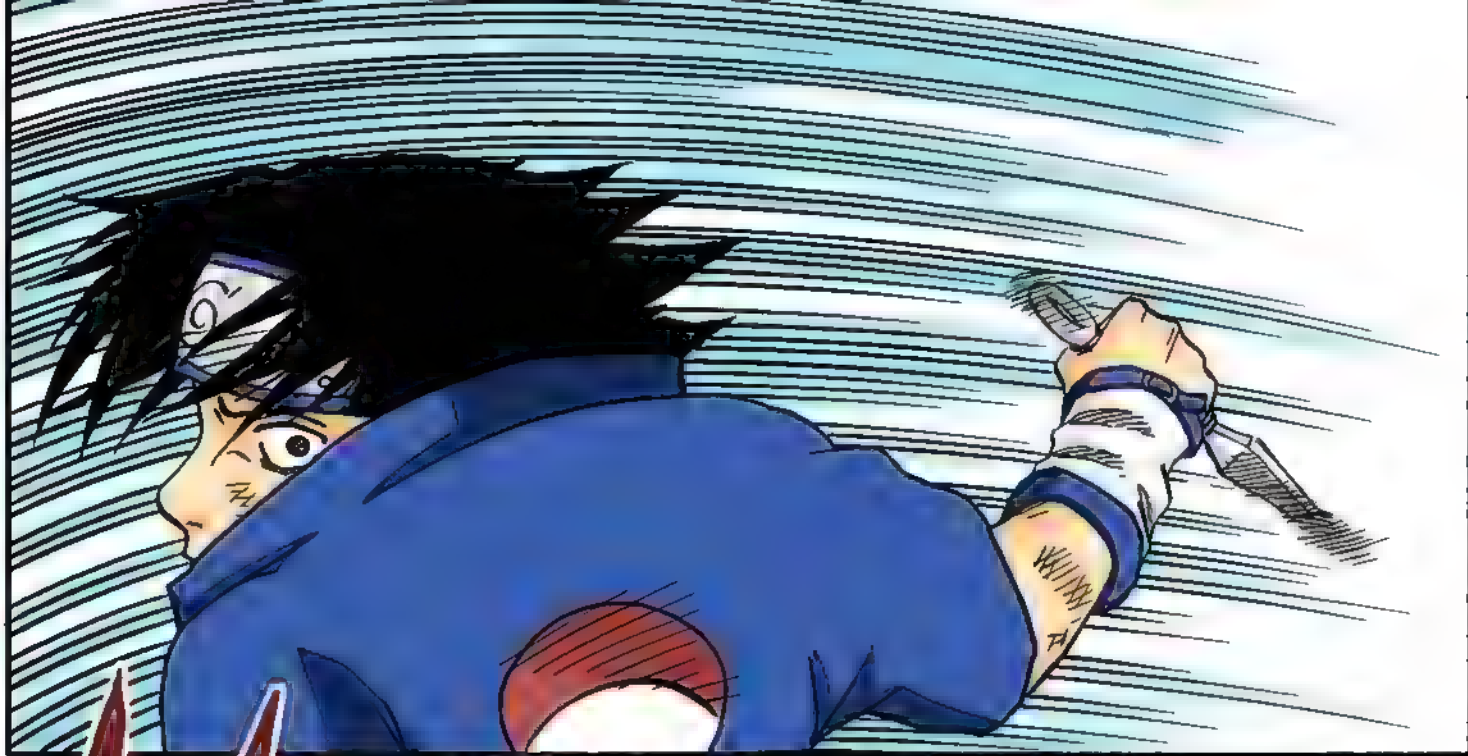
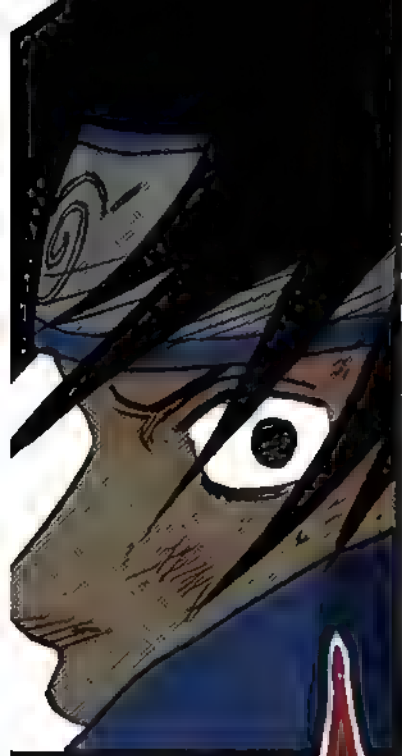
AND
I'LL BE
FORCED TO
STOP YOU.
PLEASE
DON'T
FORGET
THAT.

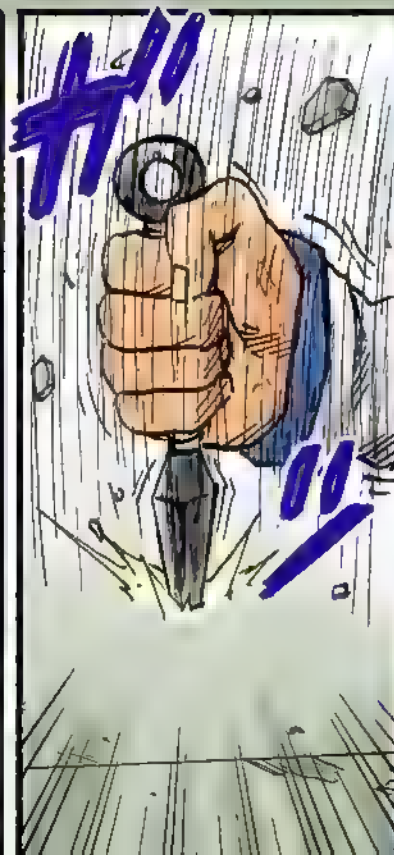
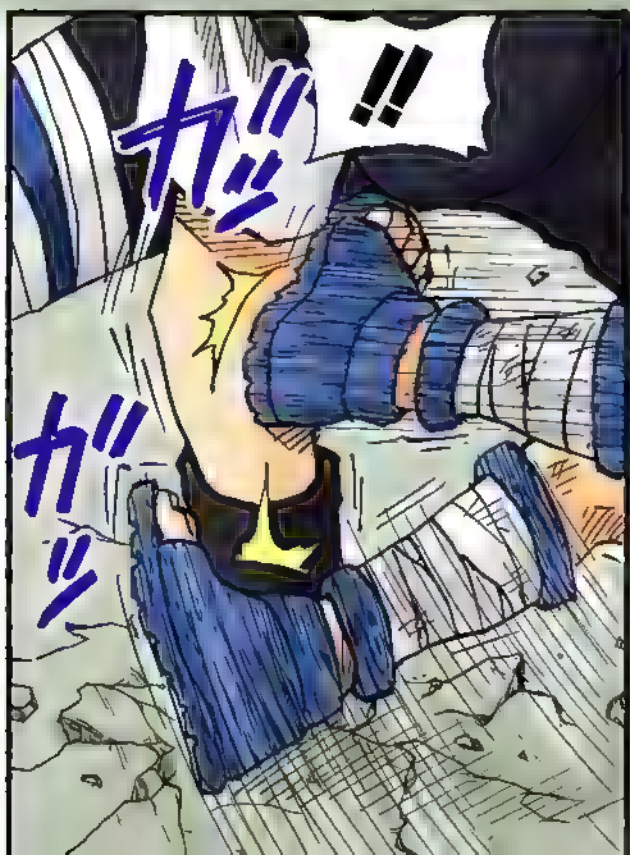
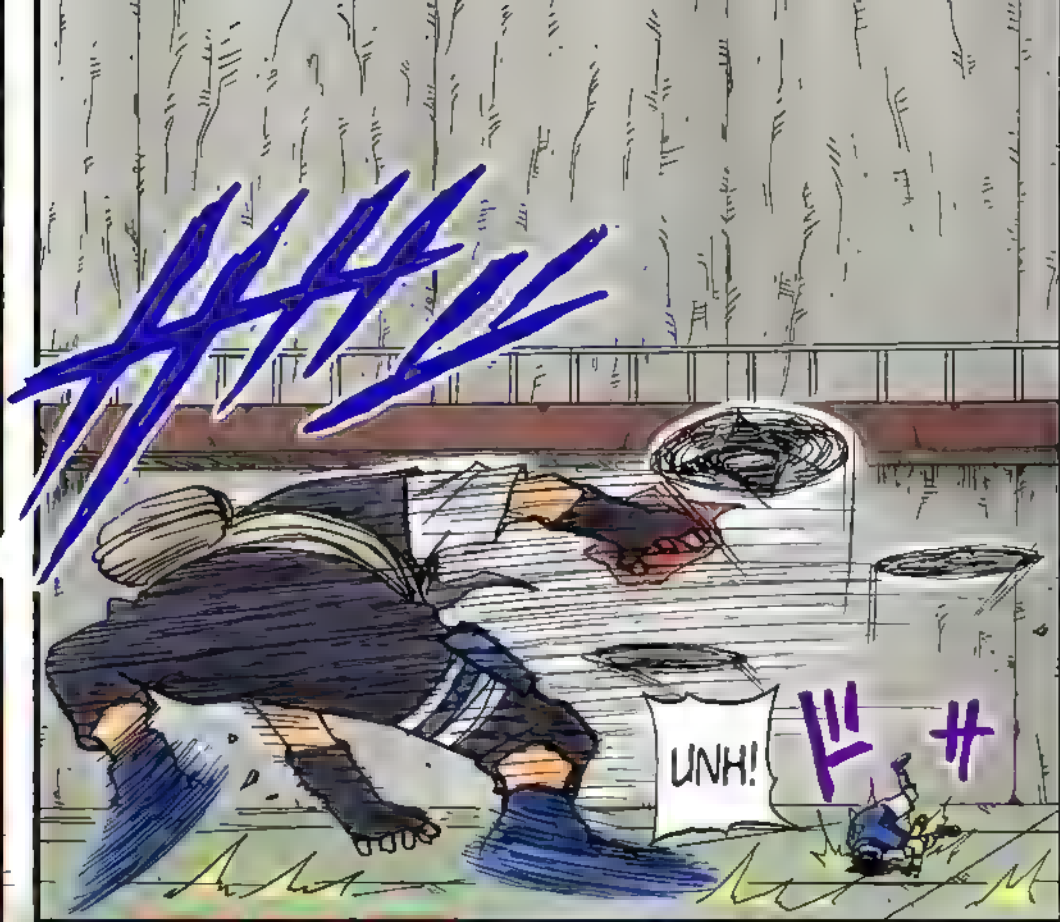
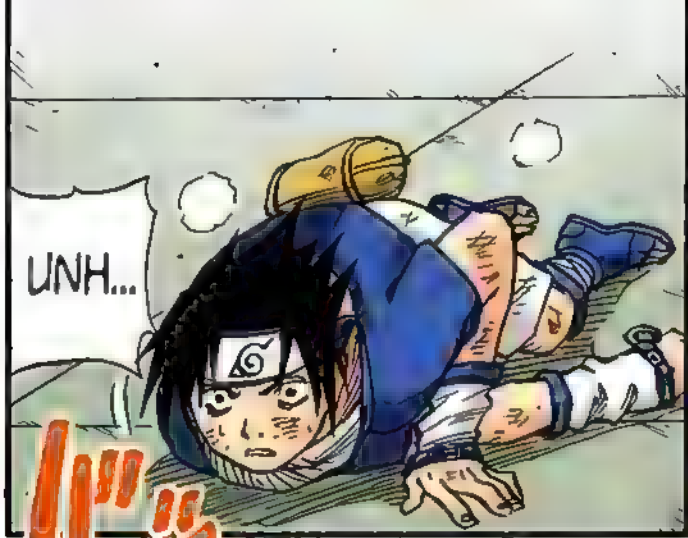
IF THEY
SEE ANY
SIGN OF THAT,
THE MATCH
WILL BE
SUSPENDED.

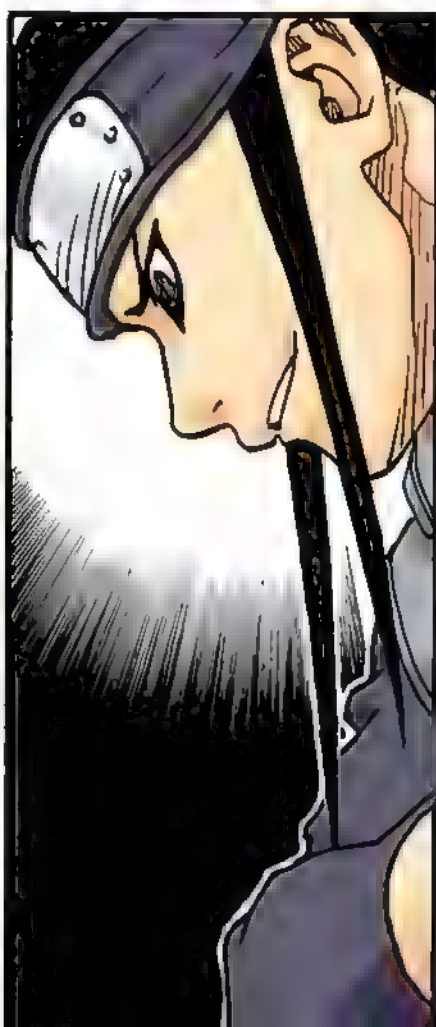
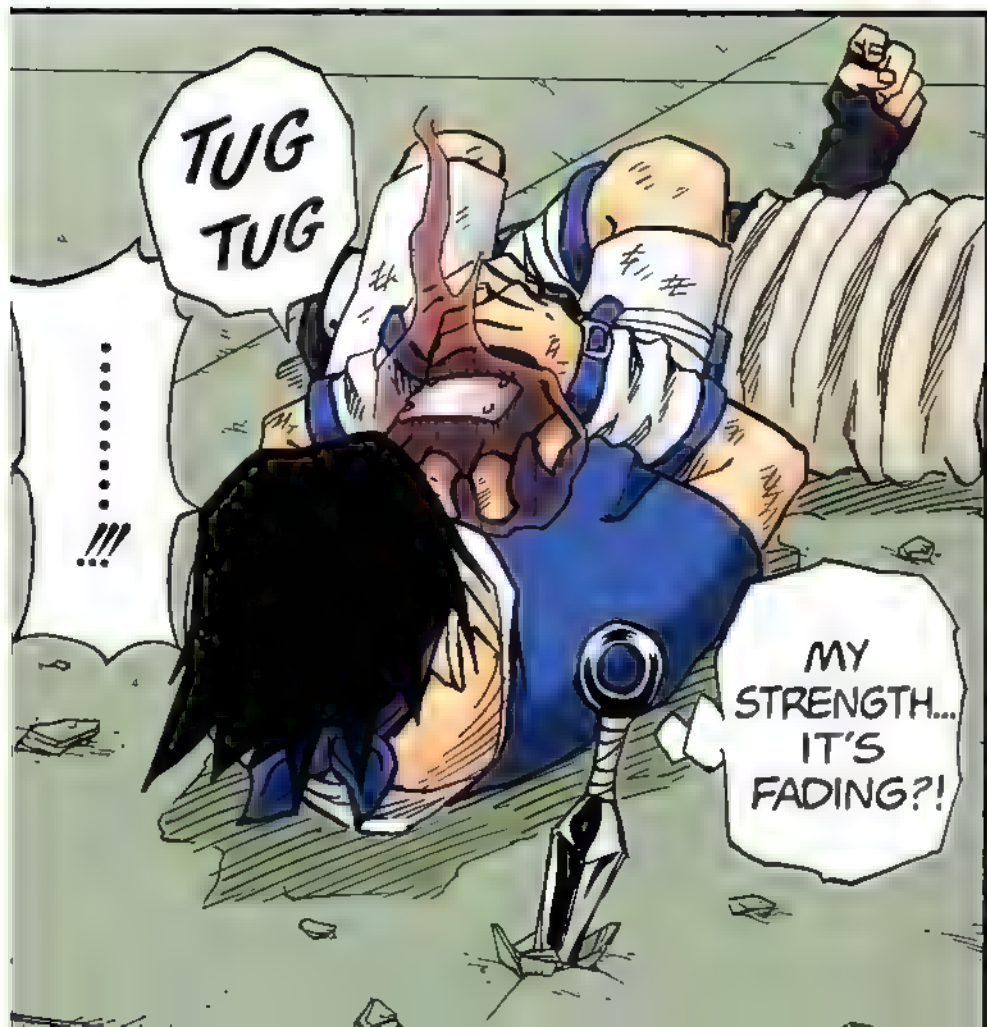
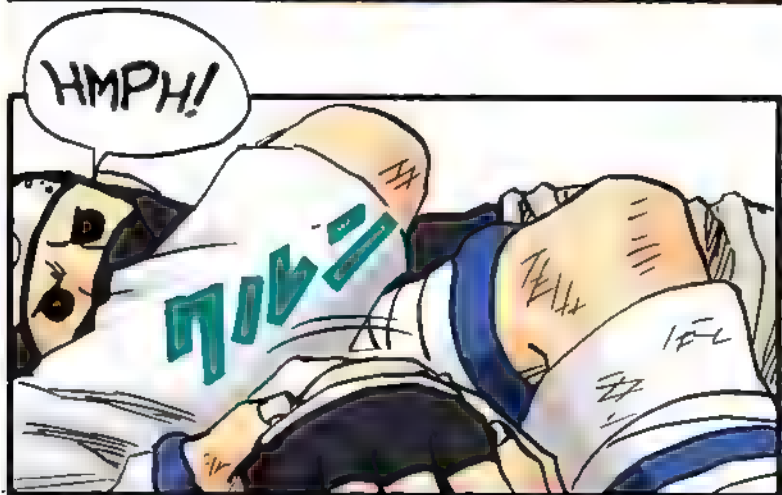
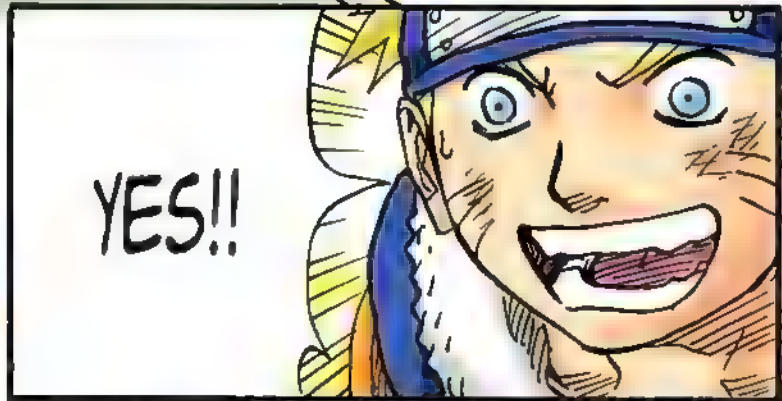


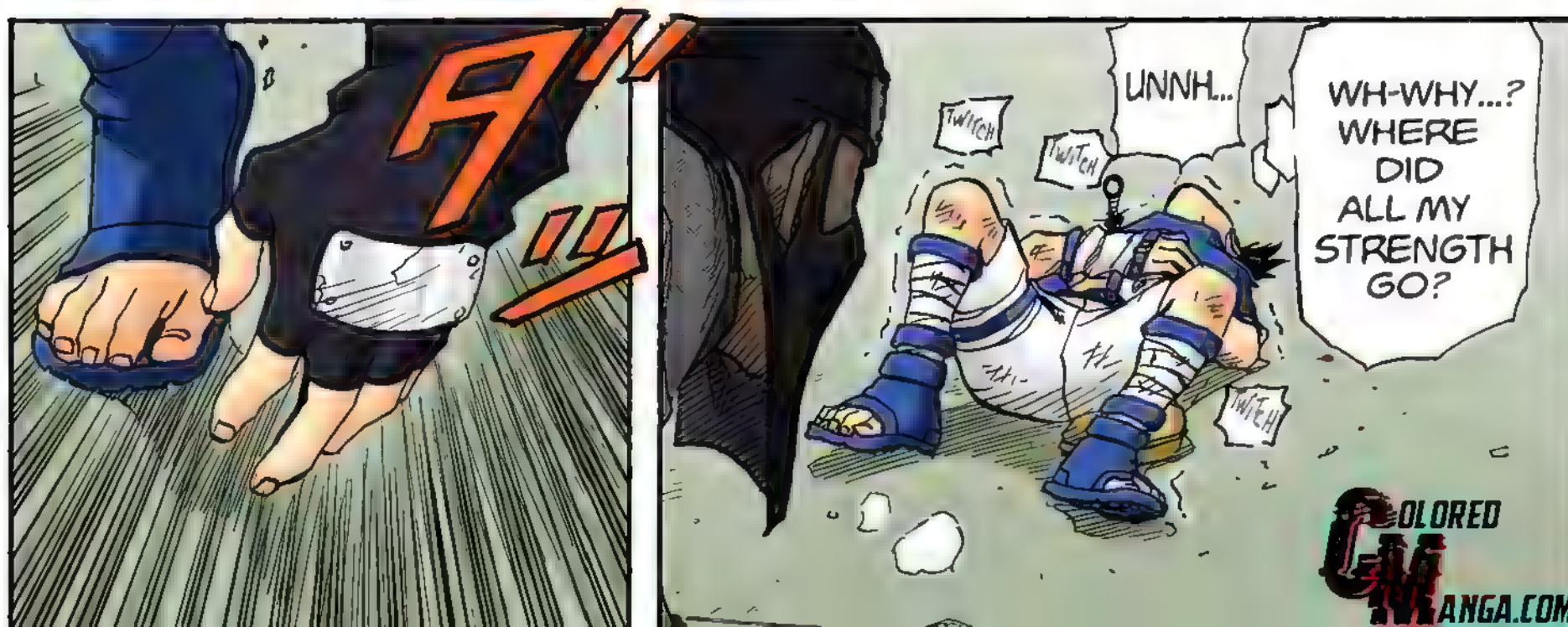
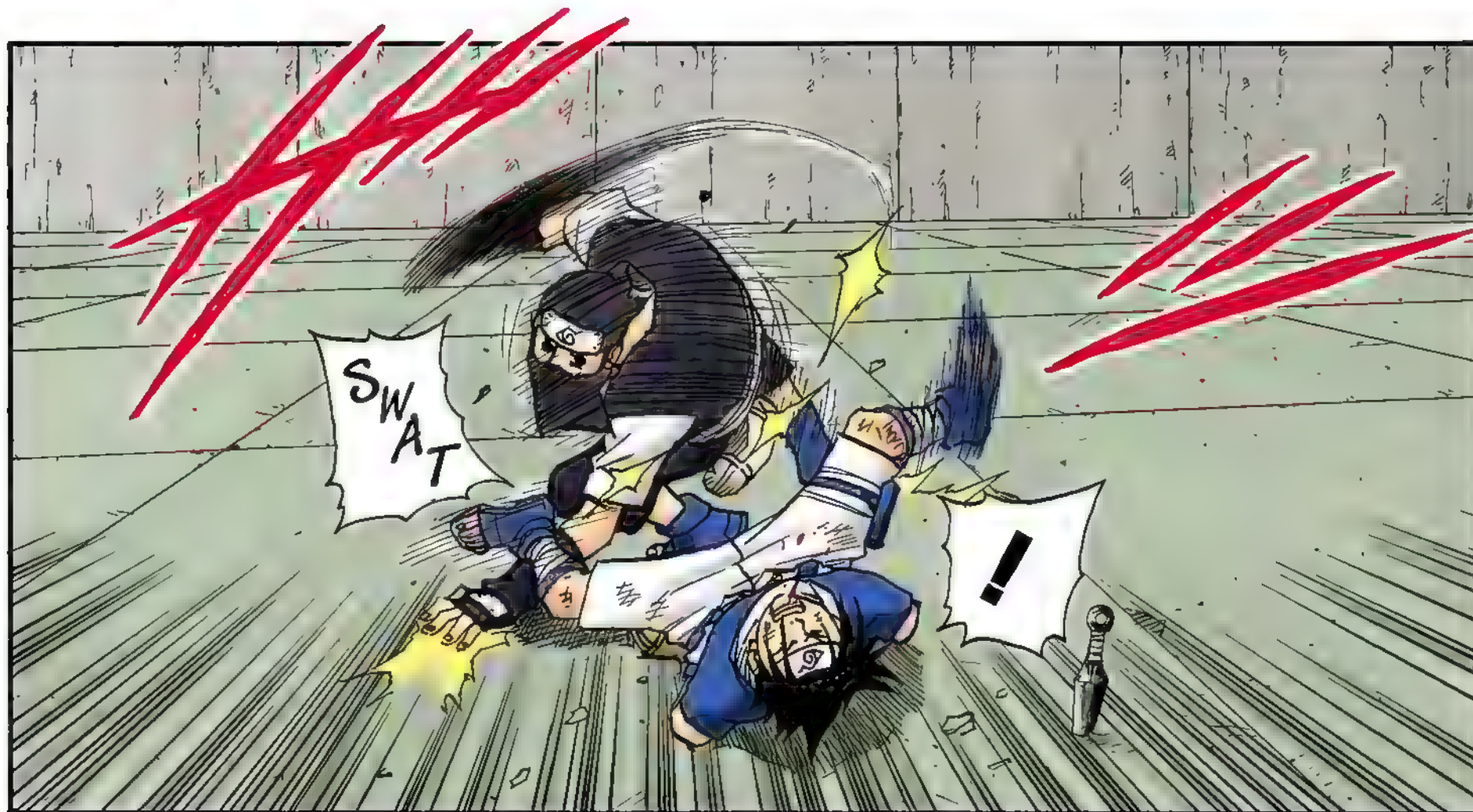
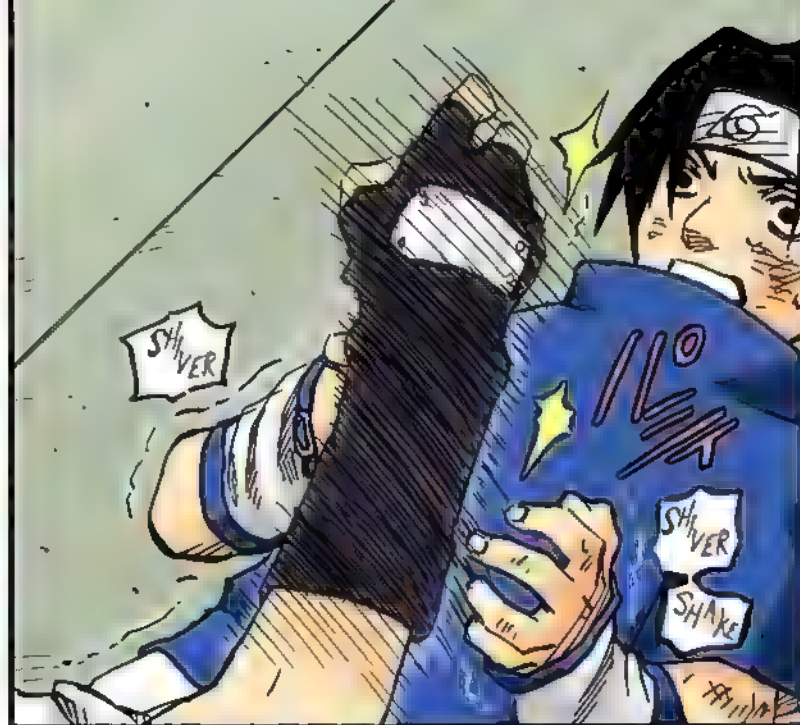


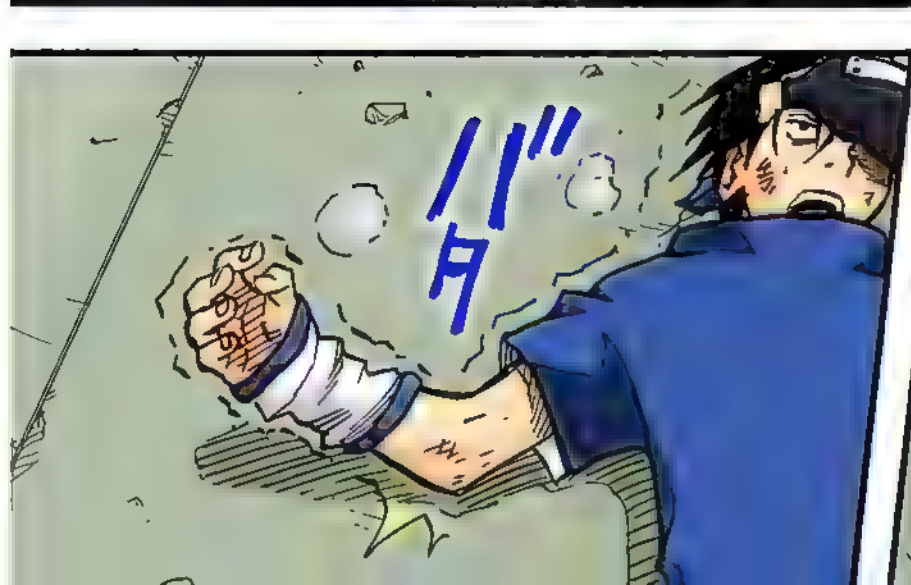
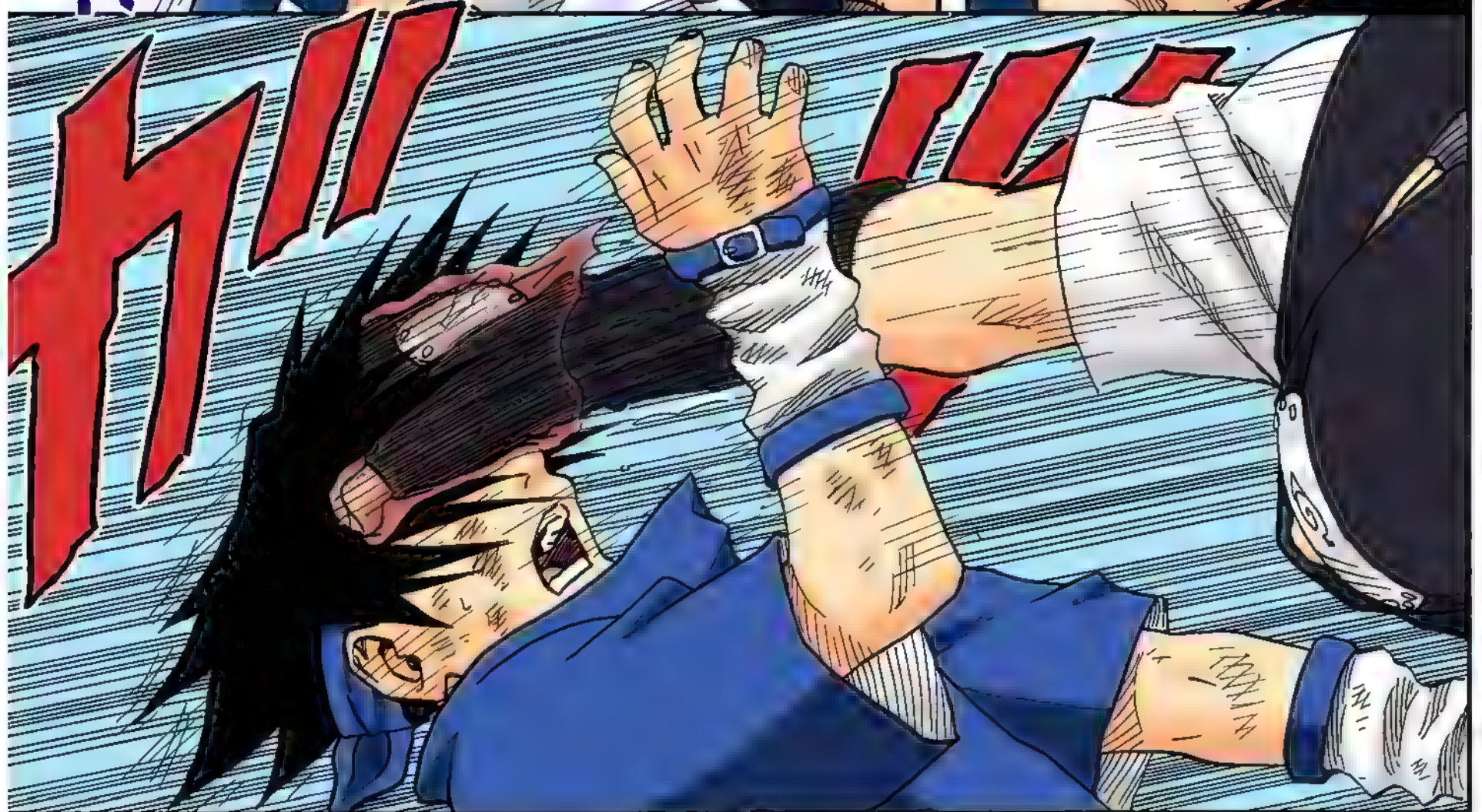
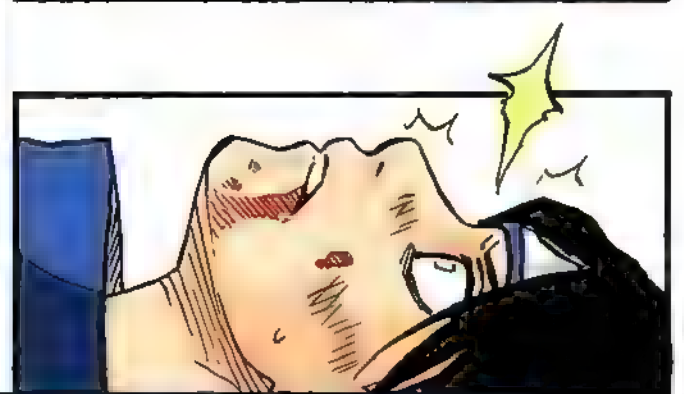






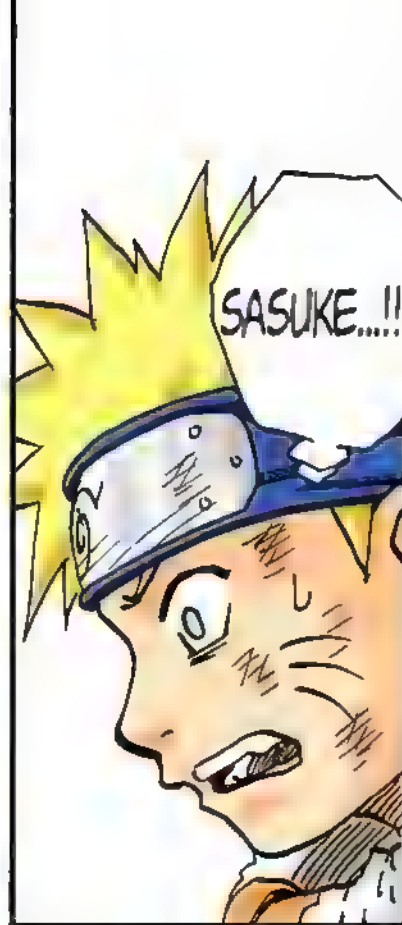








...YOU'RE...
FEEDING
ON
MY
CHAKRA...



SASUKE...!!

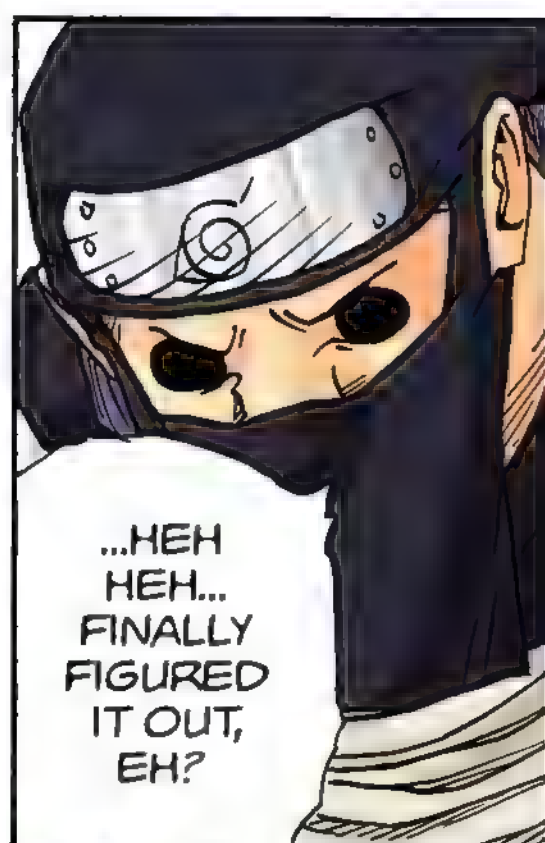


!!



IT'S A BRILLIANT
ART WHEREBY
SIMPLY
PRESSING
THE PALM
OF HIS HAND
AGAINST AN
OPPONENT'S
BODY GIVES
HIM THE
ABILITY TO
CONSUME
THEIR MENTAL
AND PHYSICAL
ENERGIES.

EXACTLY!
YOROI'S
UNHOLY
GIFT IS THE
ABILITY TO
ABSORB
ANOTHER'S
CHAKRA!



...HEH
HEH...
FINALLY
FIGURED
IT OUT,
EH?



THAT'S IT...
OPEN
YOURSELF
UP...

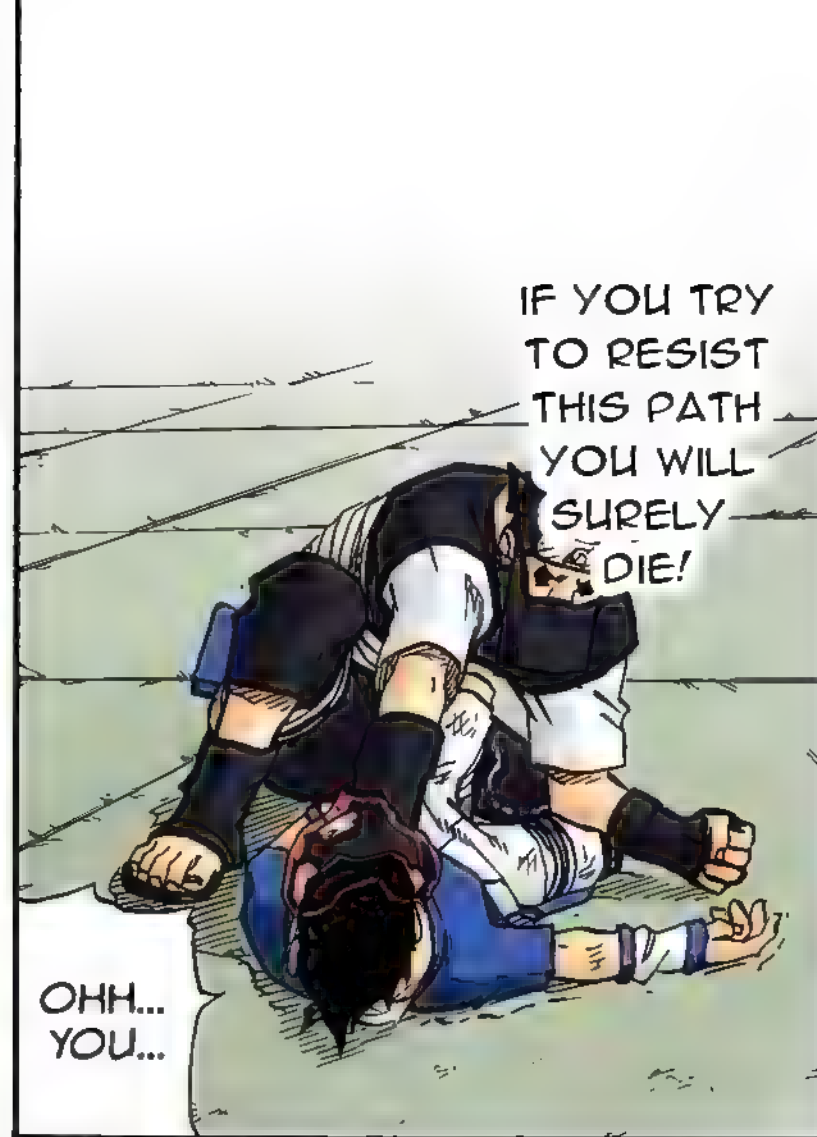
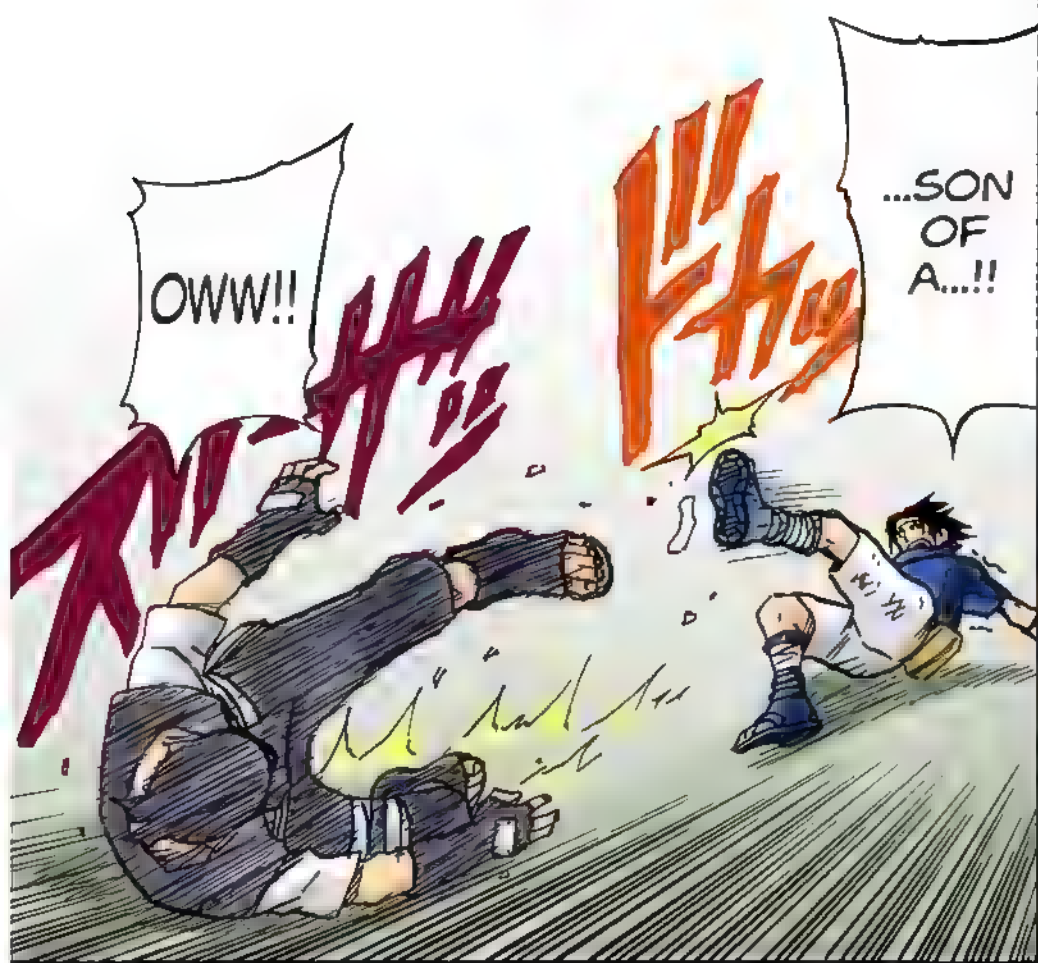
...TO ALL
THAT
DELICIOUS
POWER!!

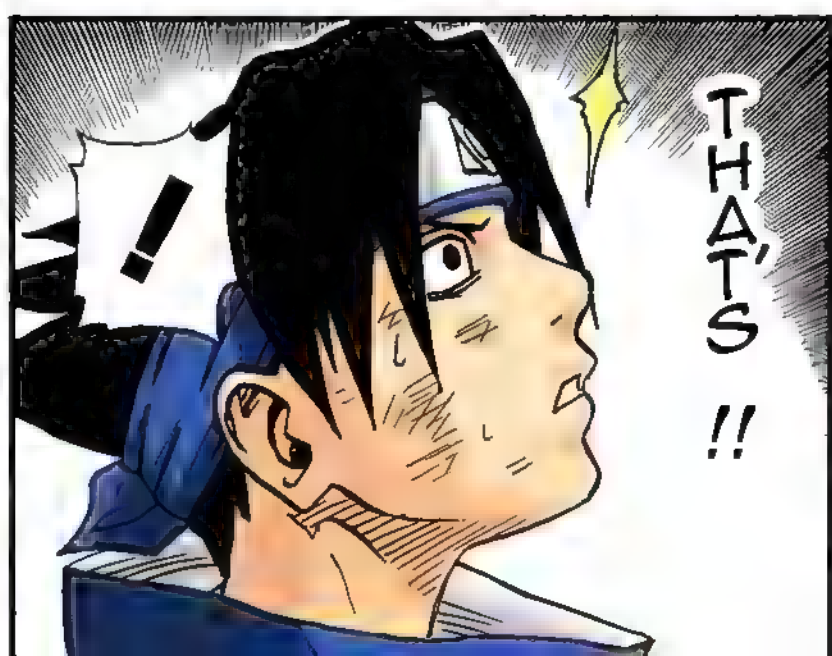
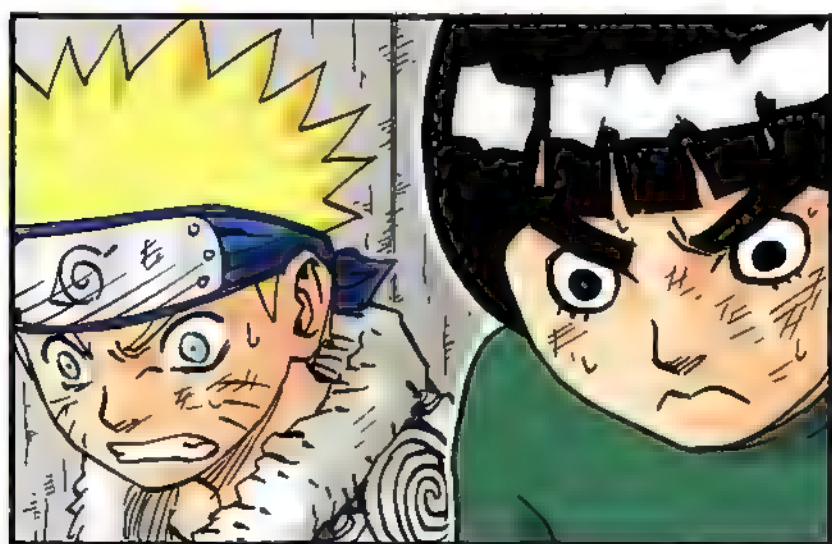
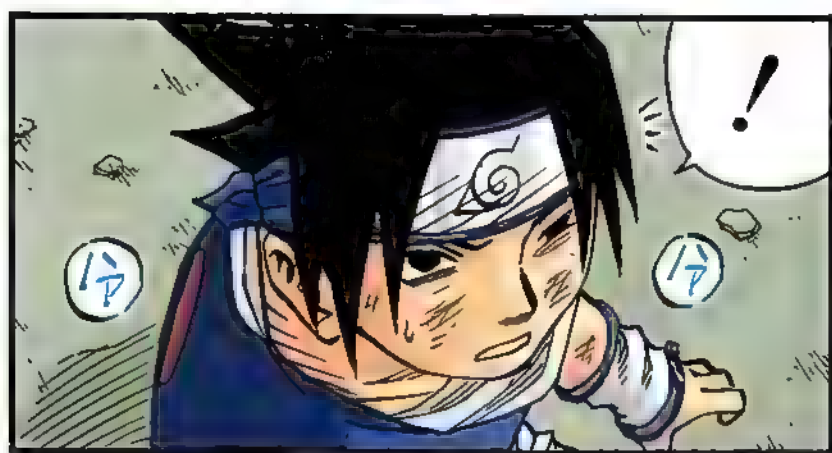
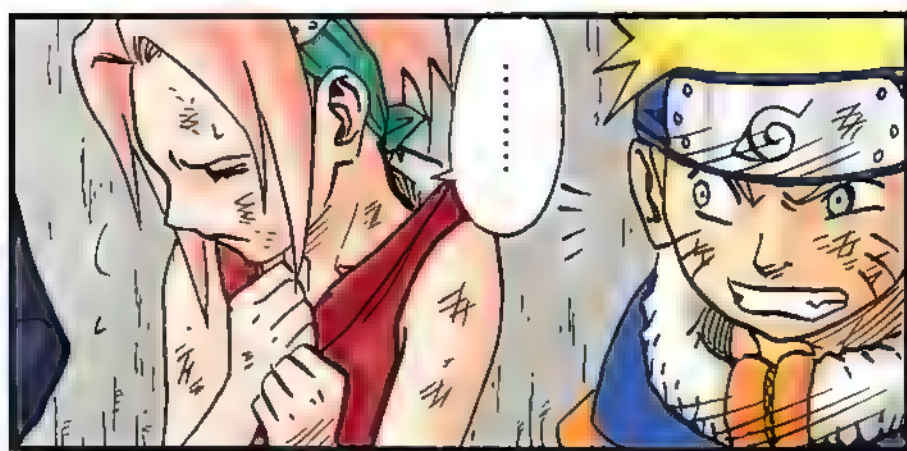
...YOU WILL
HAVE NO
RECOURSE
BUT TO
CALL UPON
THE
POWER
OF MY
CURSE-
MARK!

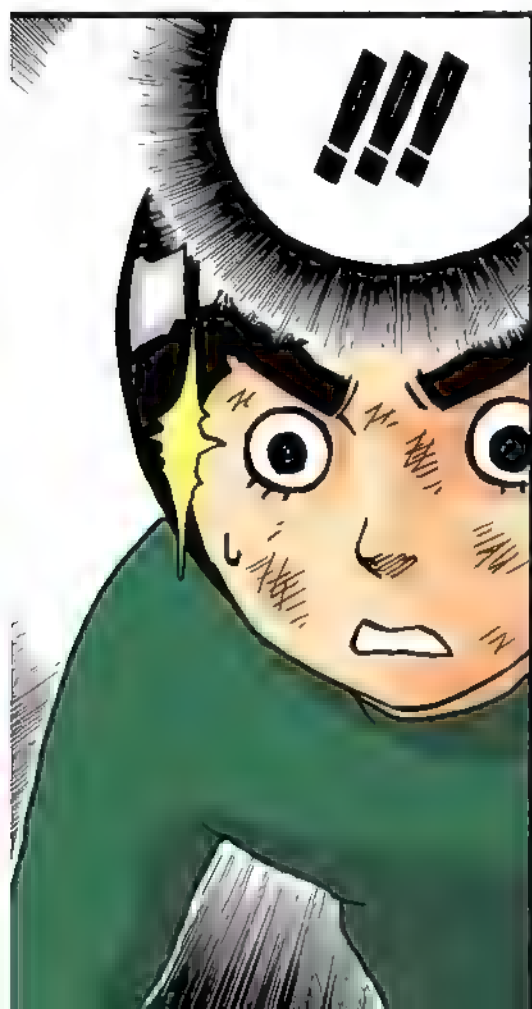
AAUGH!!



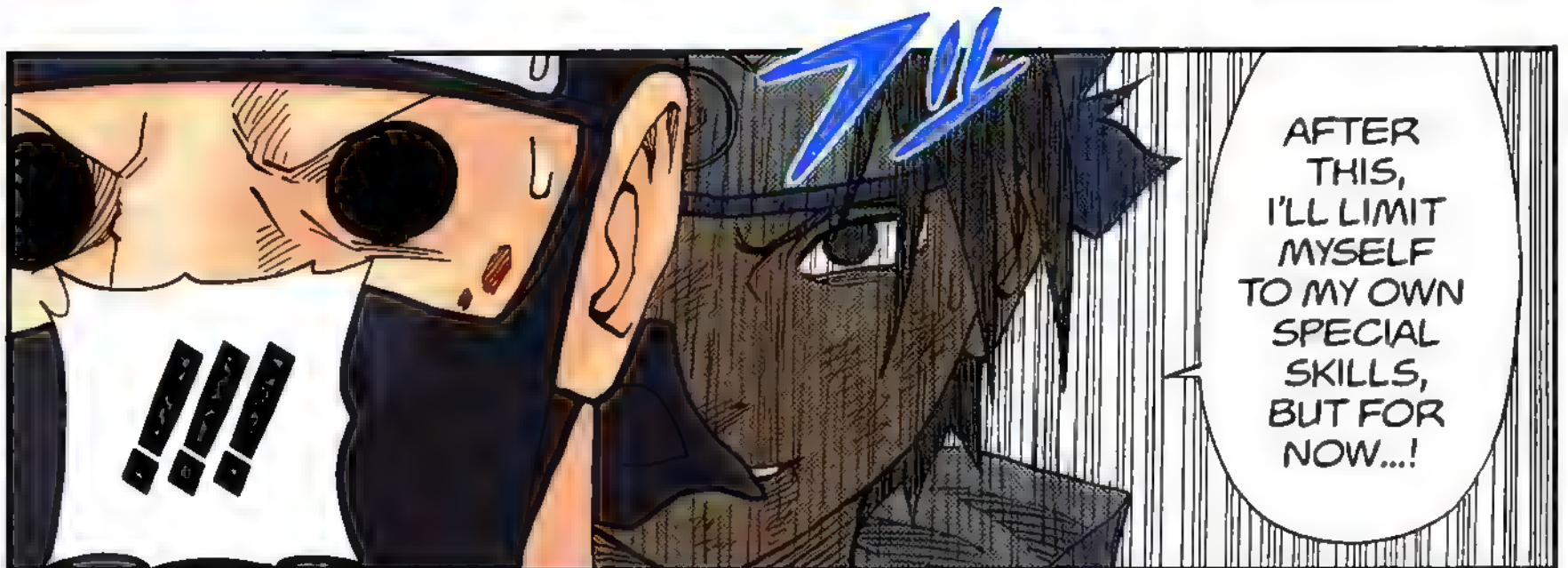
AND ONCE
ALL YOUR
CHAKRA
HAS BEEN
DEVoured,
SASUKE...

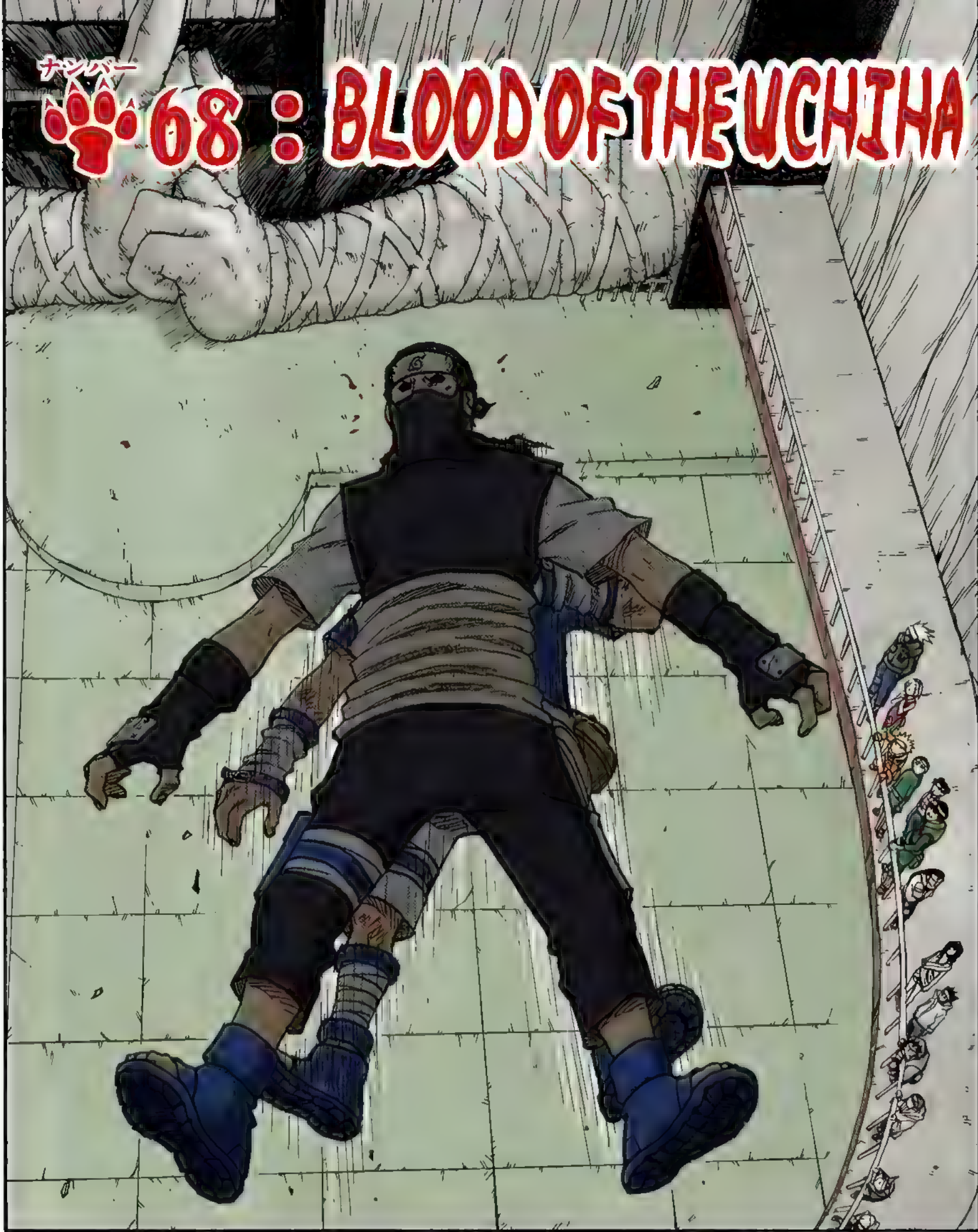


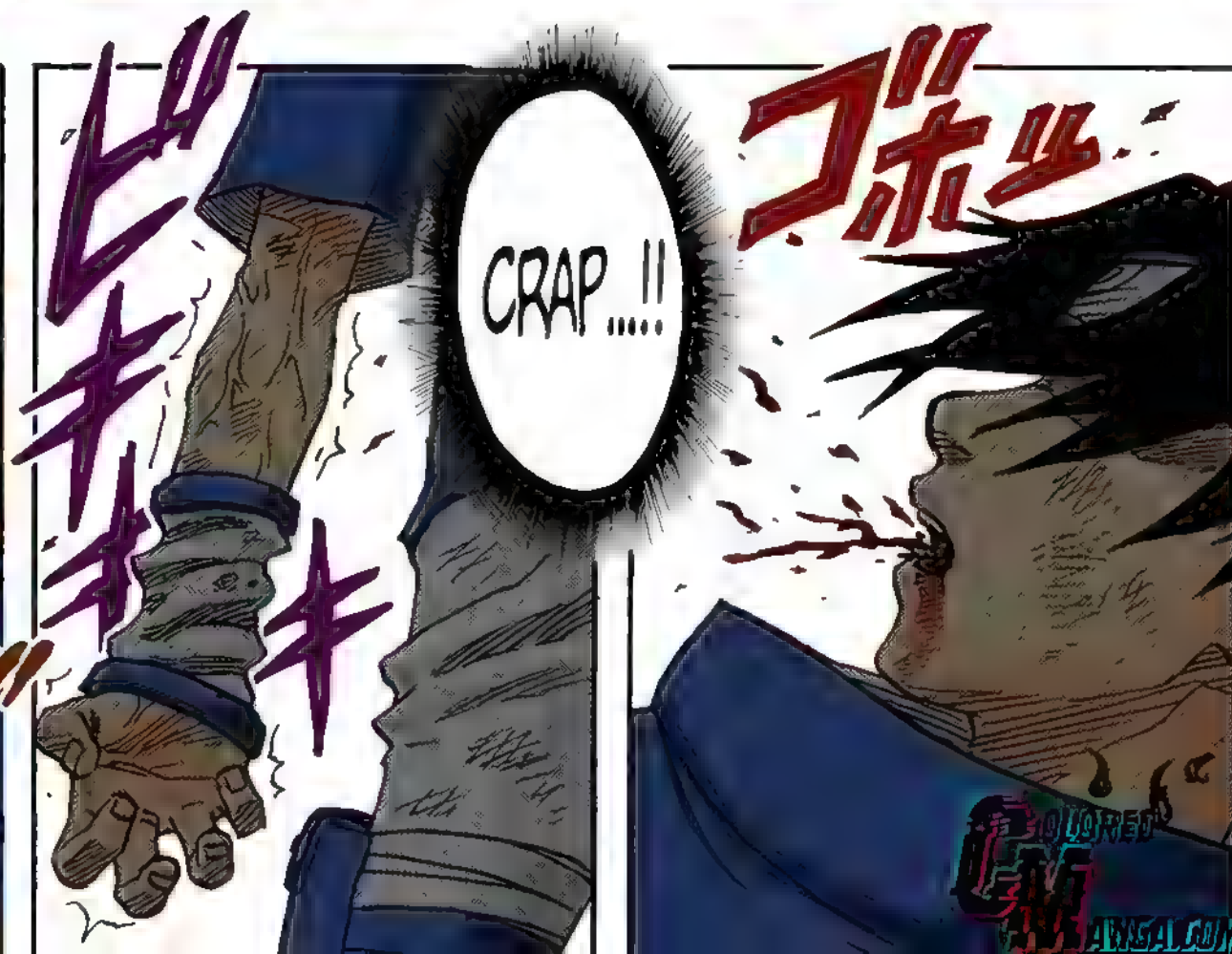


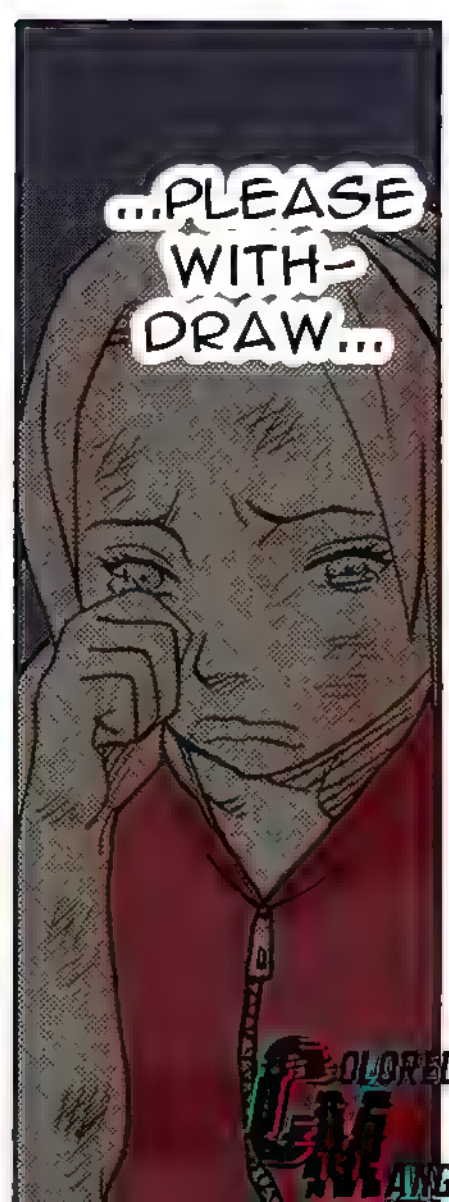
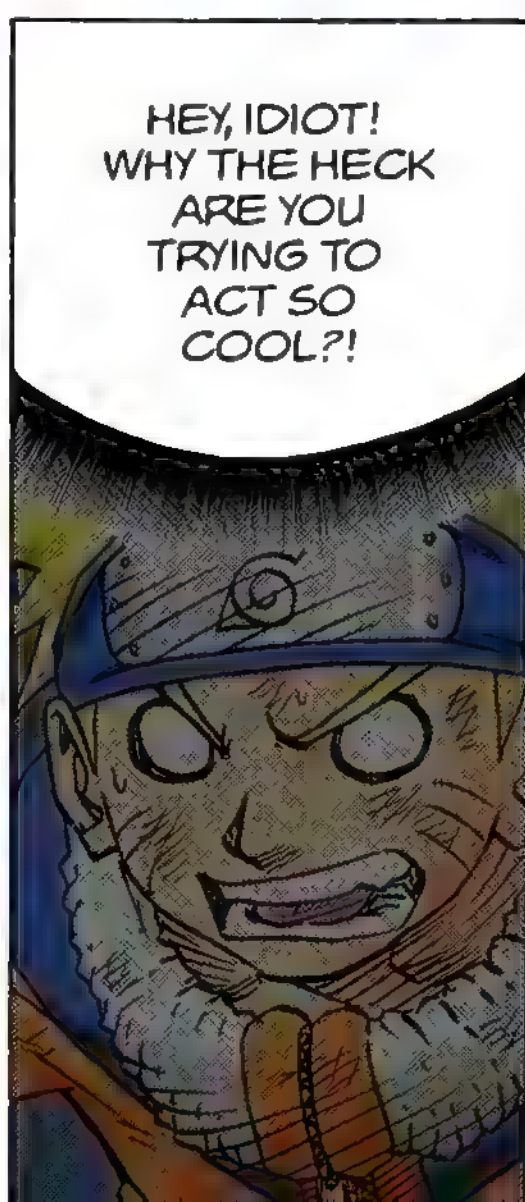












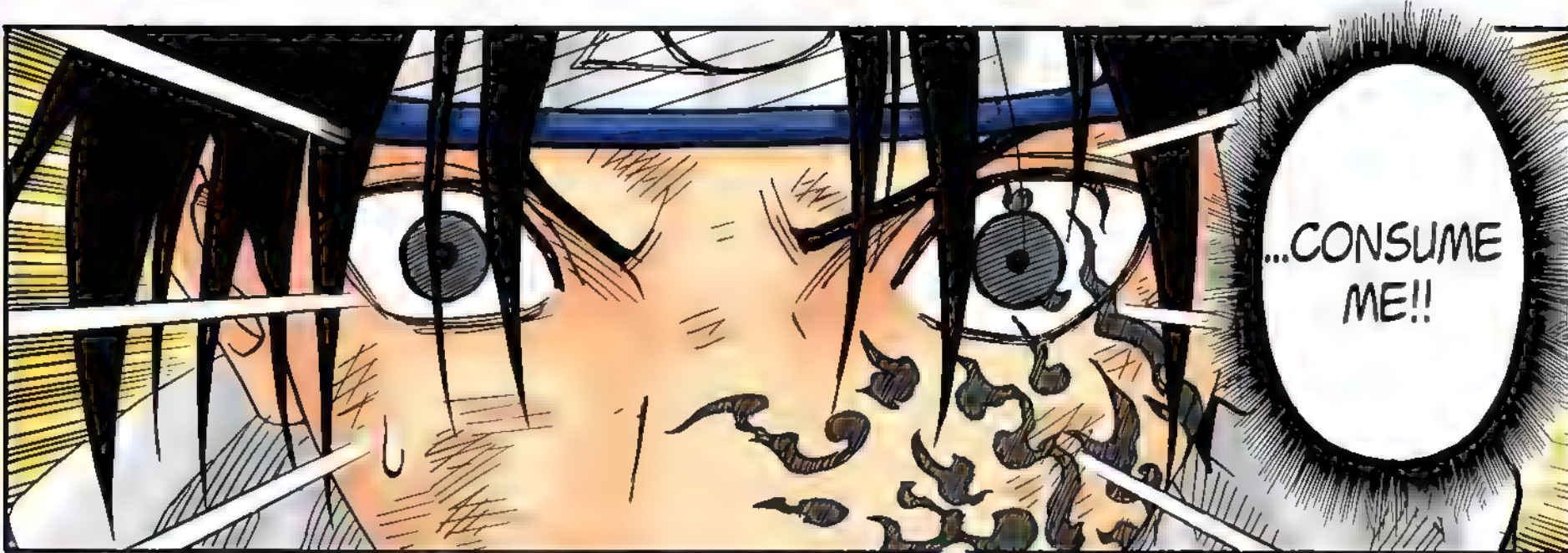


HE'S
REACHED
HIS
LIMIT!

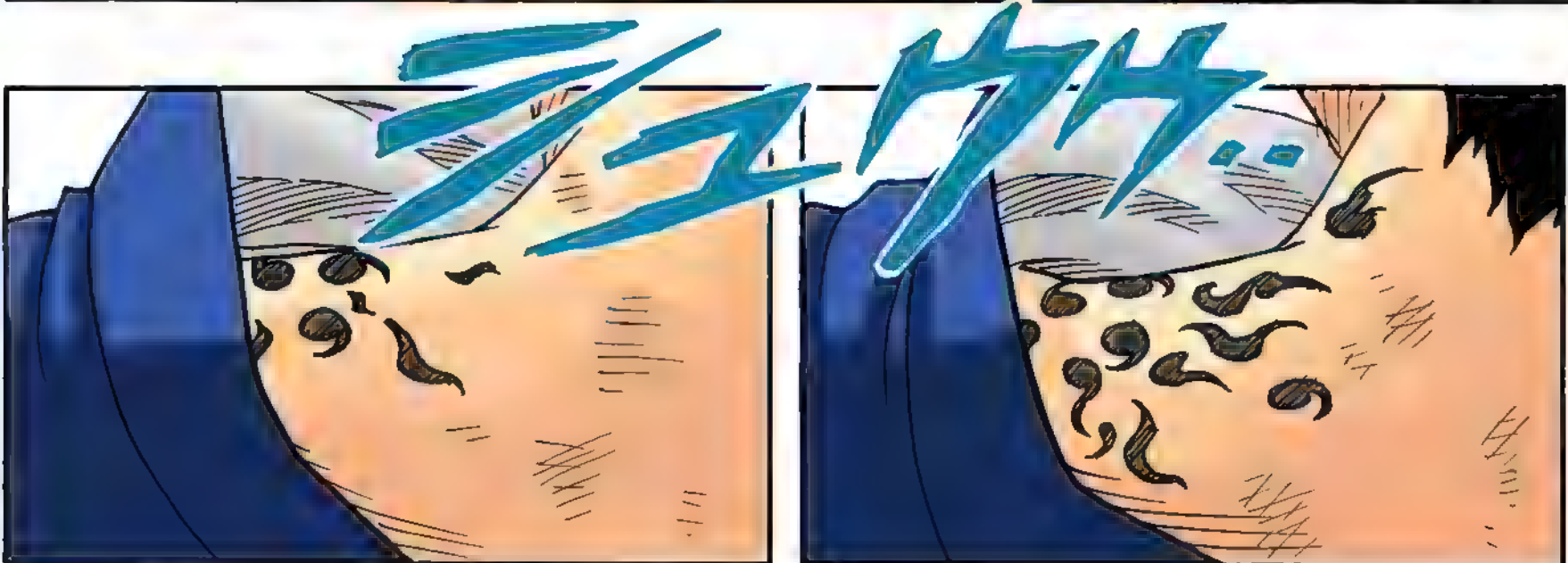


LIE
BACK
AND
LET
IT...

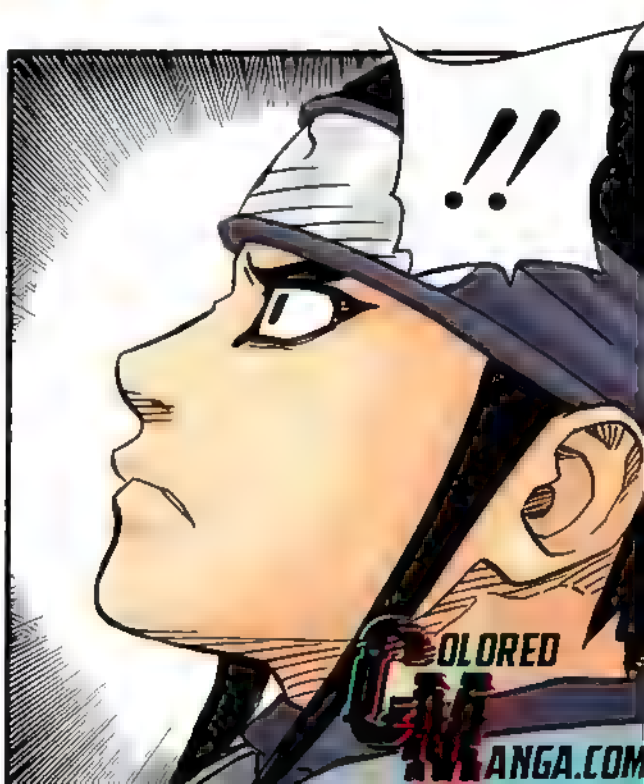
...I'M
NOT
JUST
GONNA...



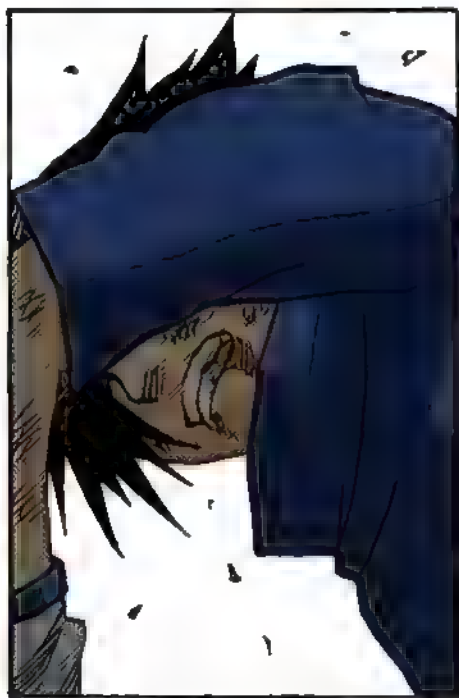
...CONSUME
ME!!

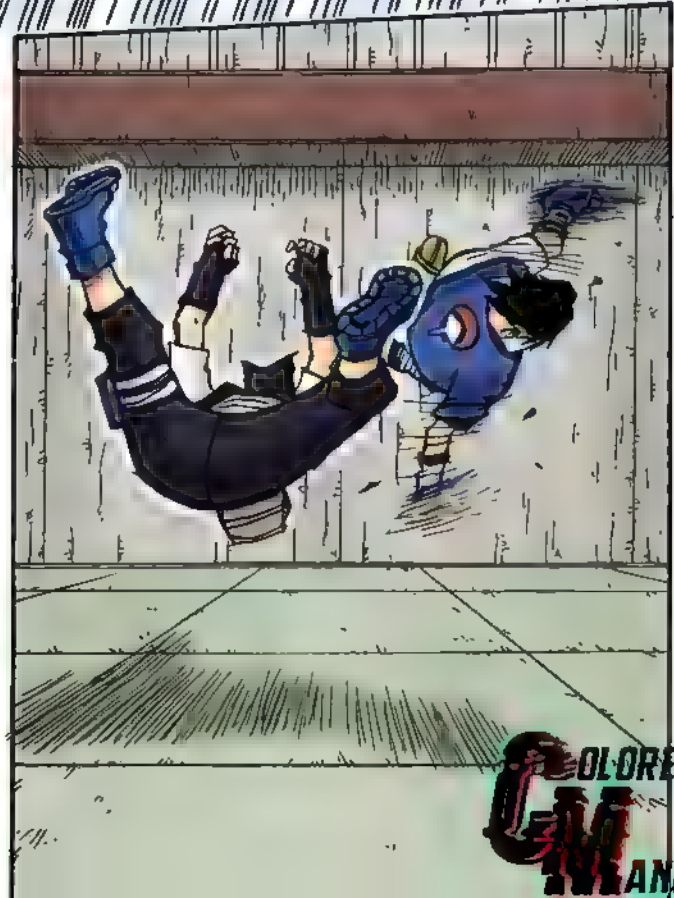
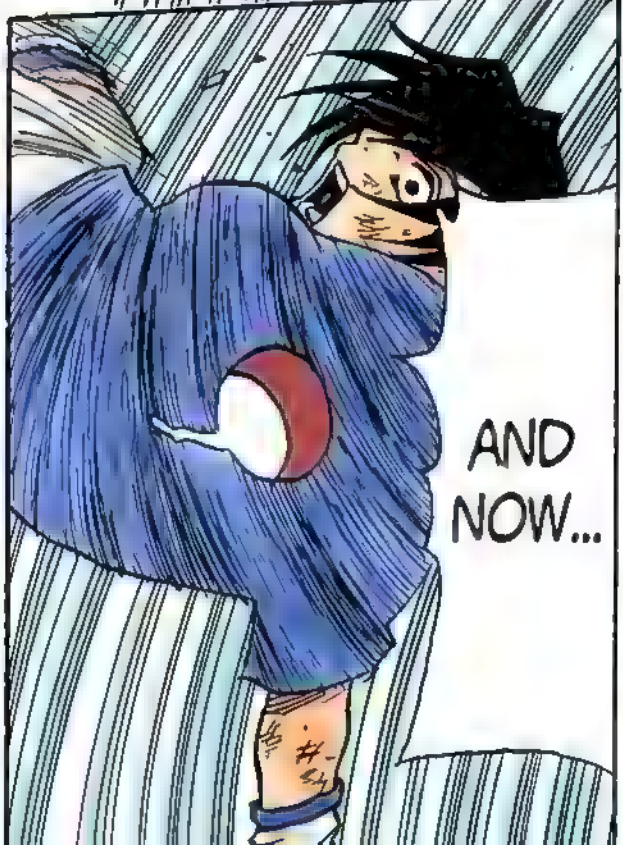
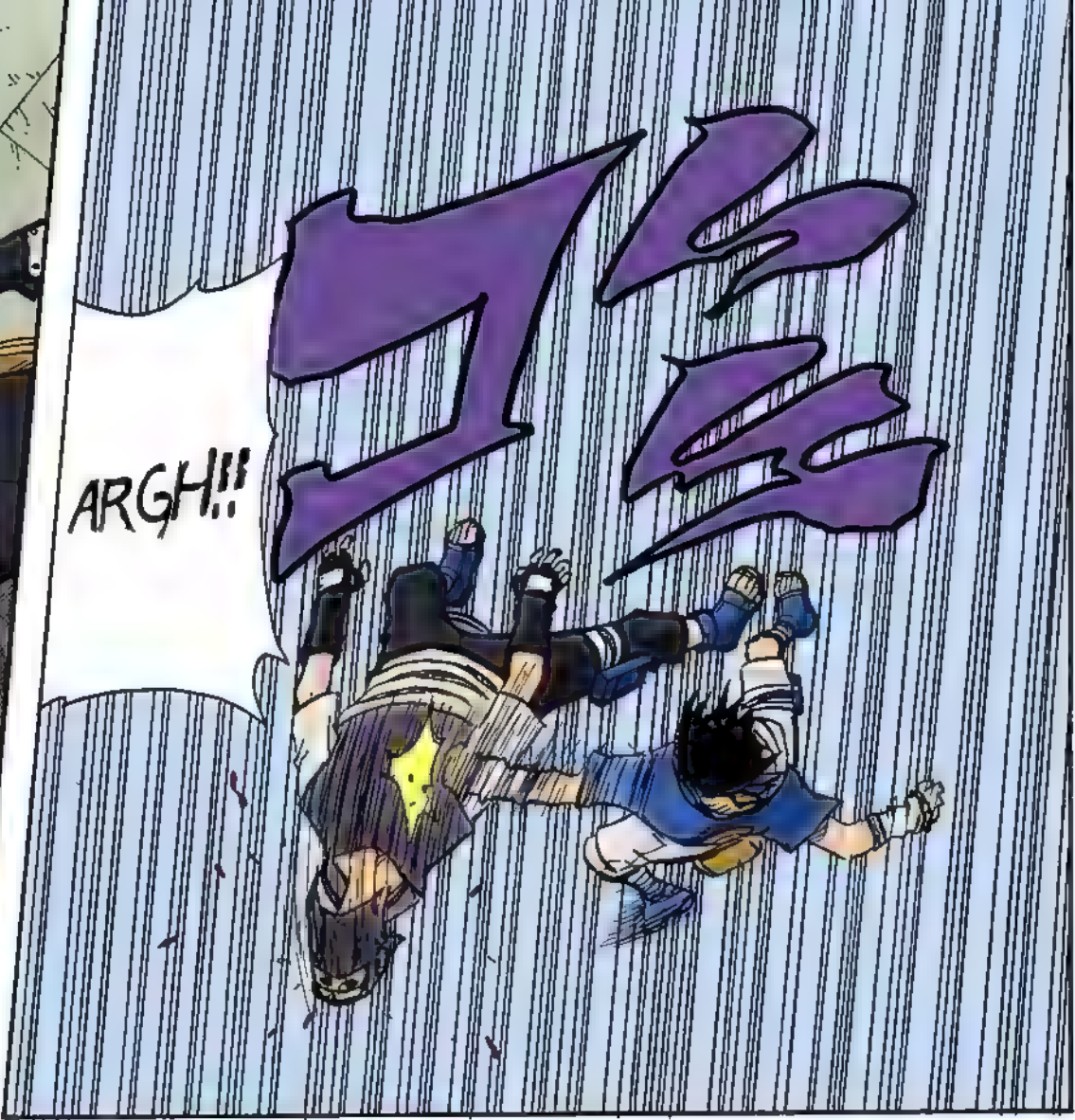


THE CURSE
MARKS ARE...
RECEDING!

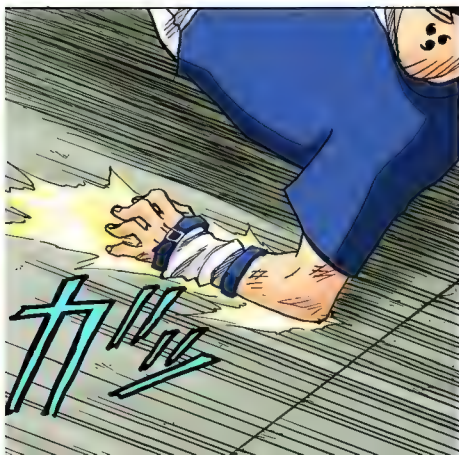


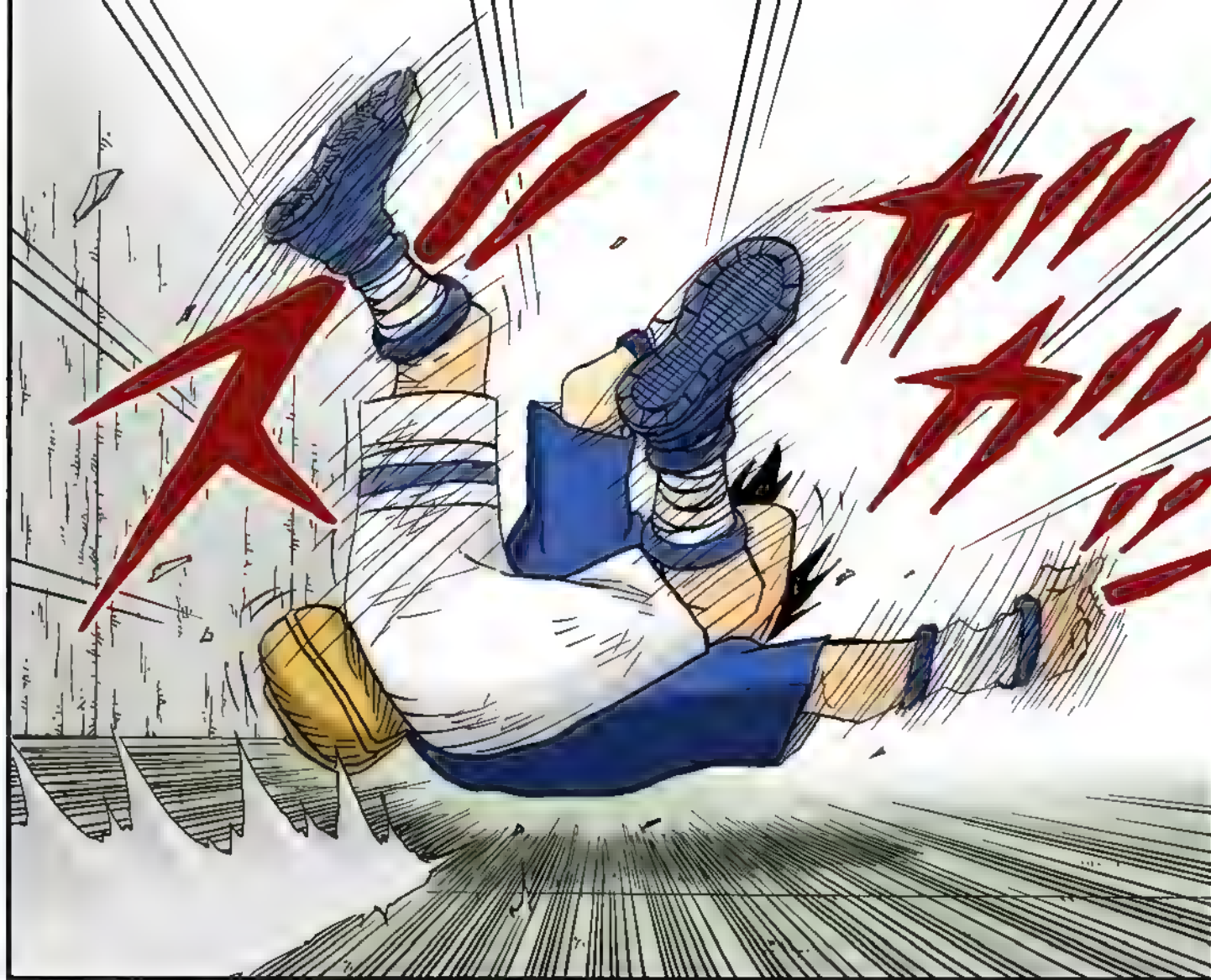


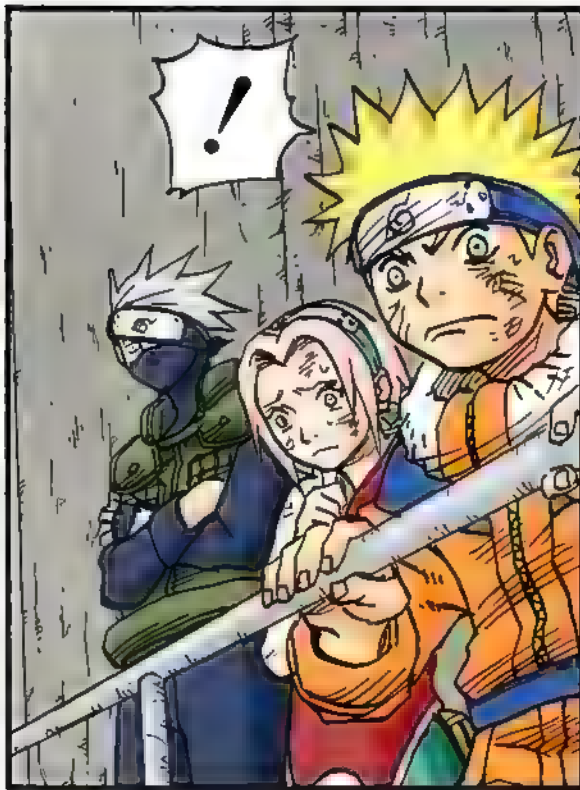
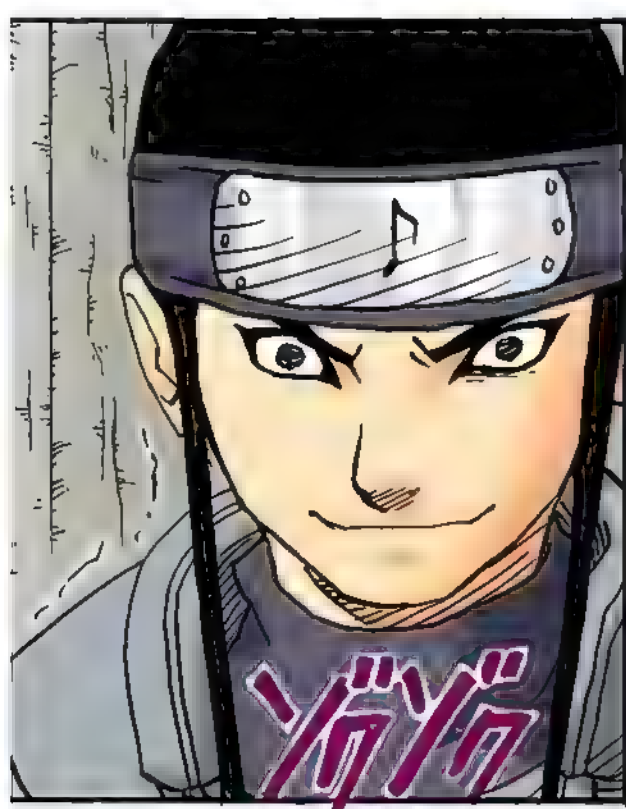
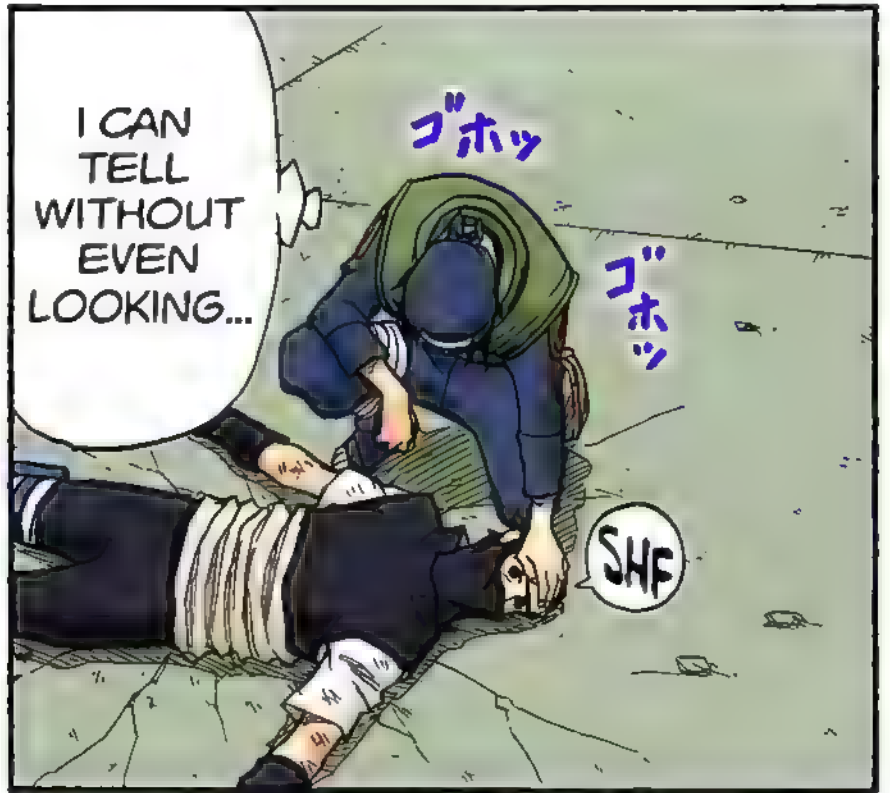


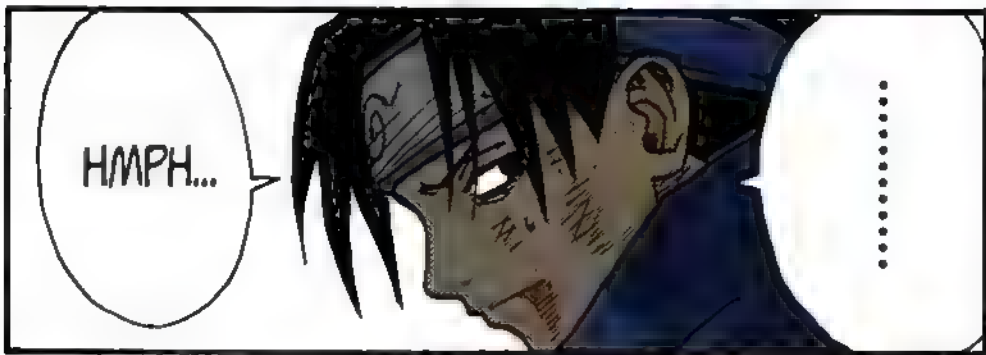
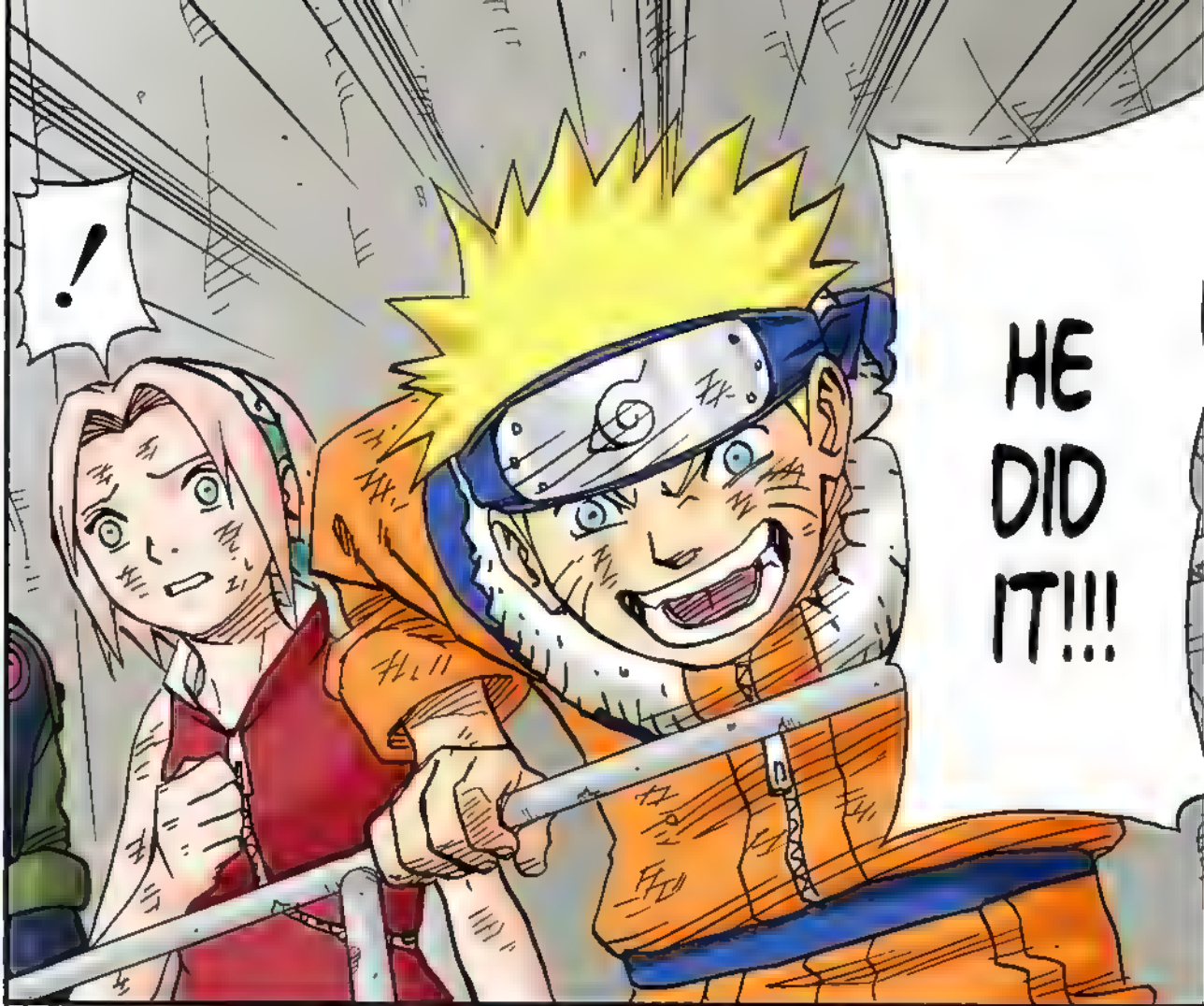


SHI-
SHI-
RENDAN!
BARRAGE
OF
LIONS

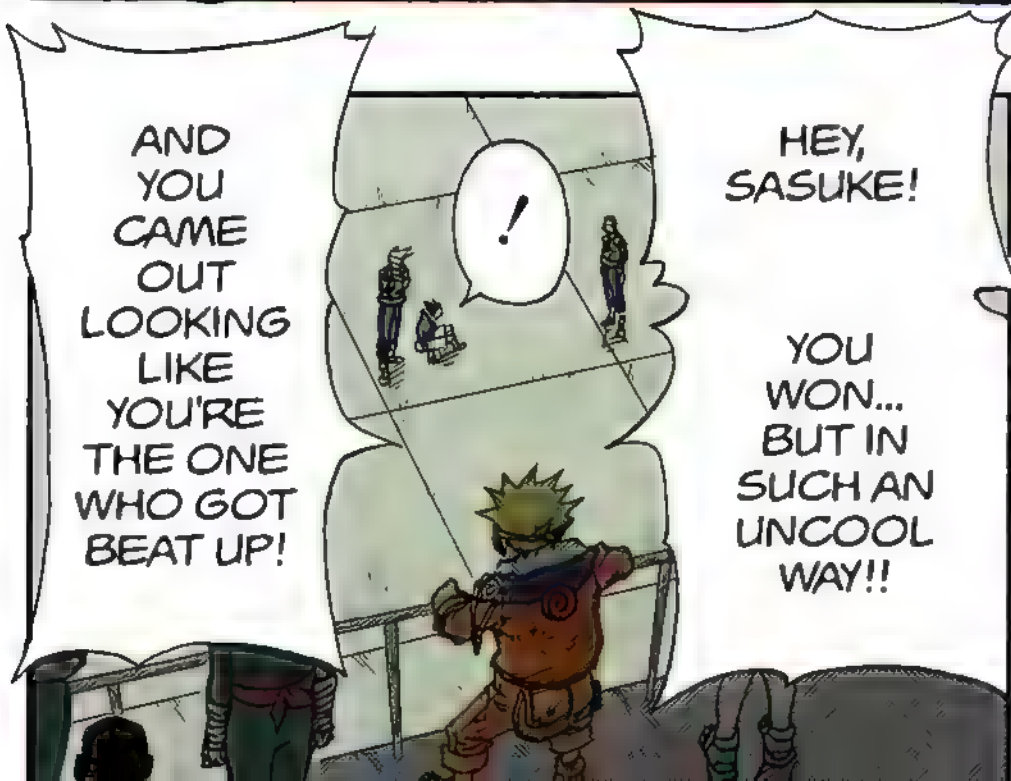


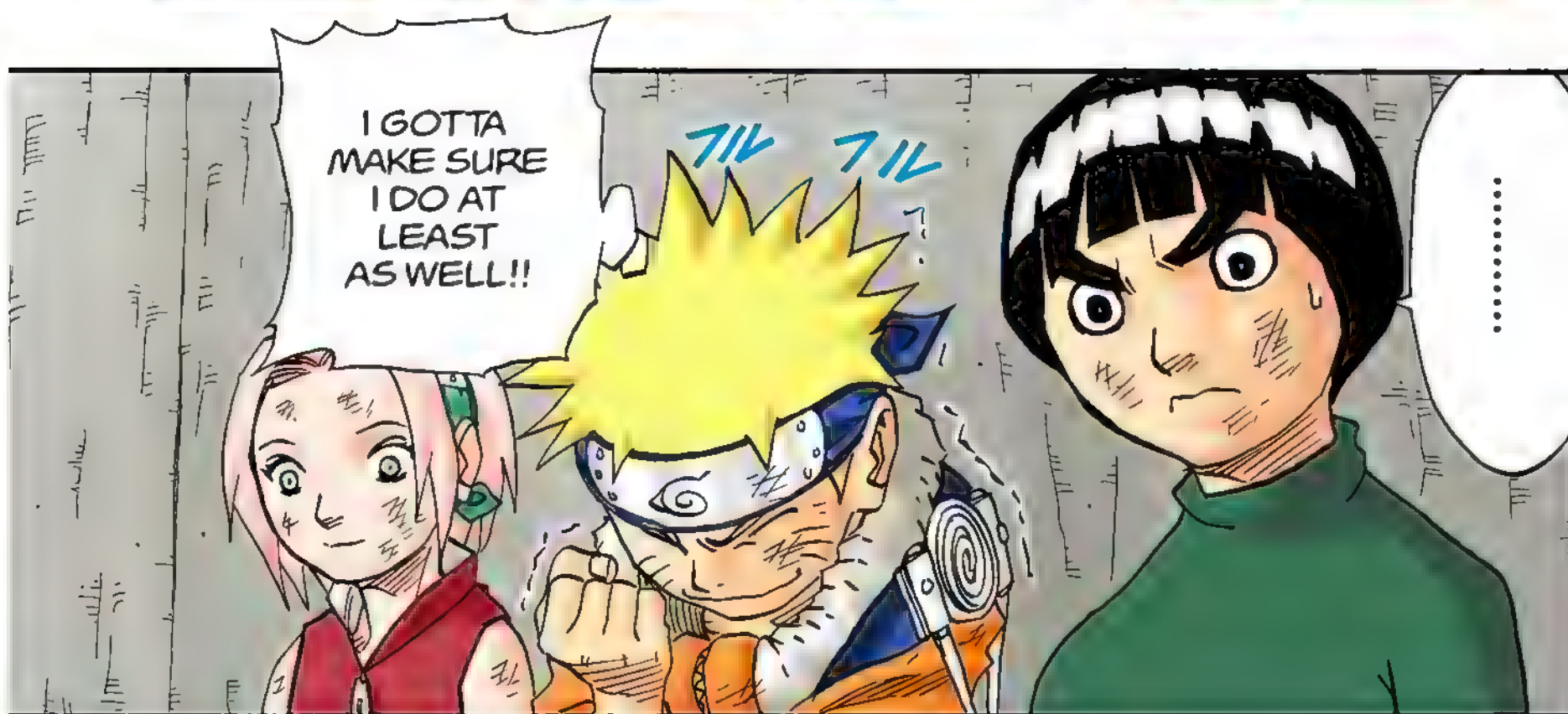
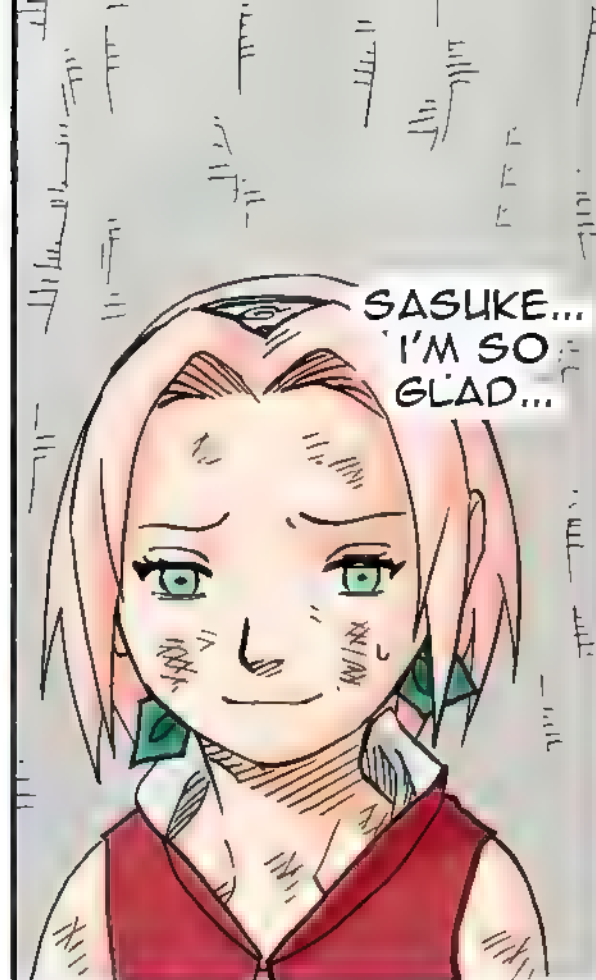
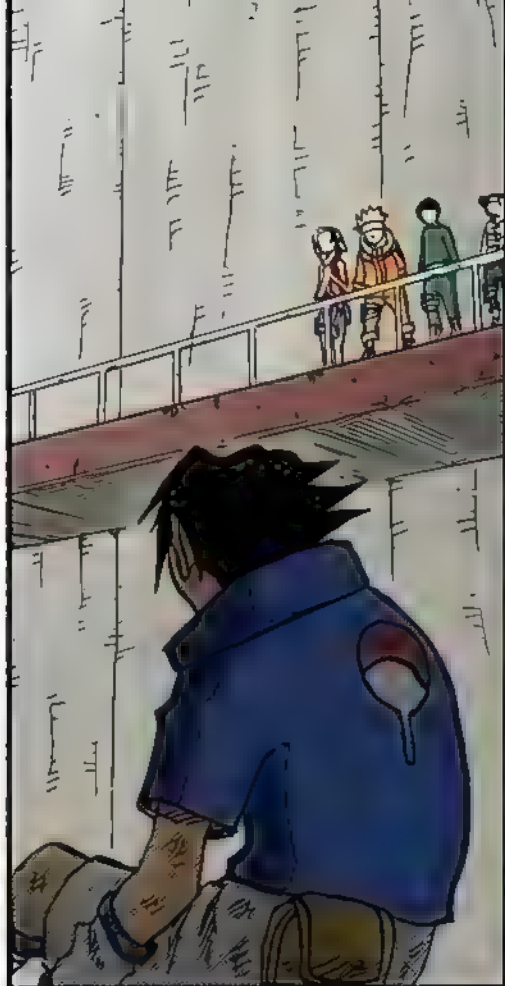


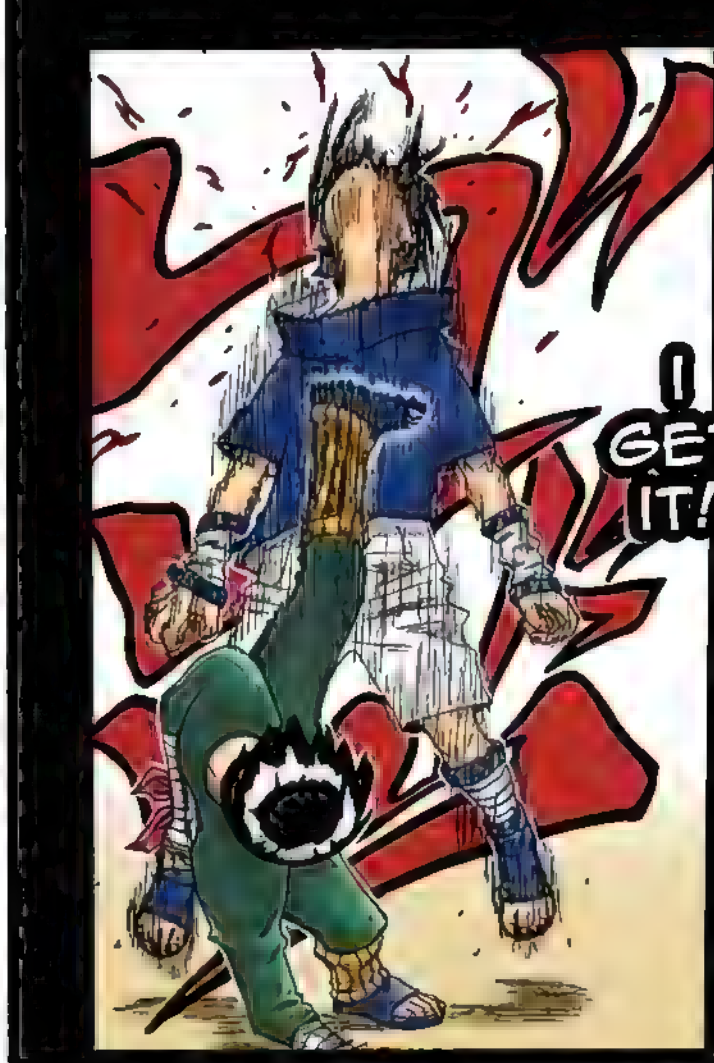




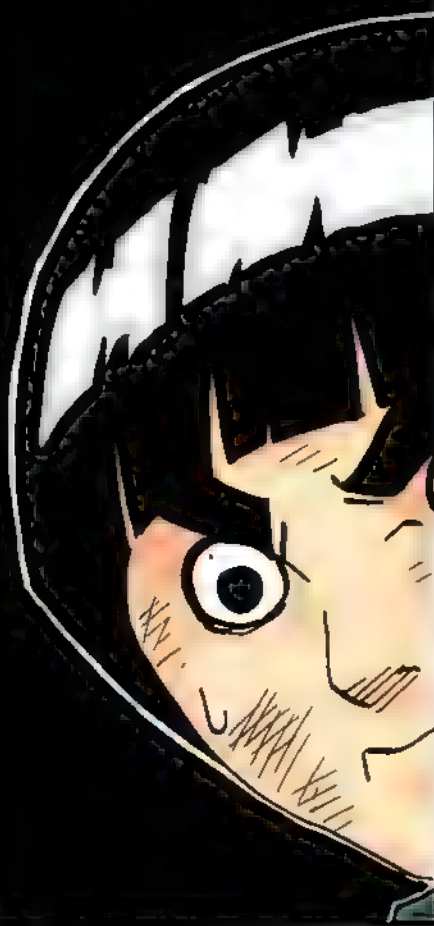
MAKE OUT VIOLENCE







I GET IT!



.....

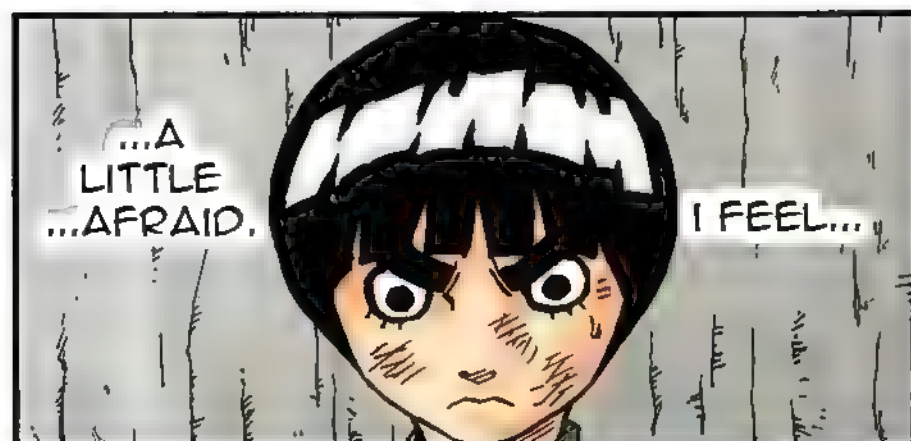


QUITE A SECRET WEAPON...

THE SHARINGAN MIRROR-WHEEL EYE!!



IN JUST, ONE ENCOUNTER, HE MANAGED TO ACQUIRE AND MASTER THE MOVE I USED. ON HIM!



...A LITTLE ...AFRAID.

I FEEL...



HE'LL ONLY GET STRONGER AS TIME GOES ON...

GASP... OW...

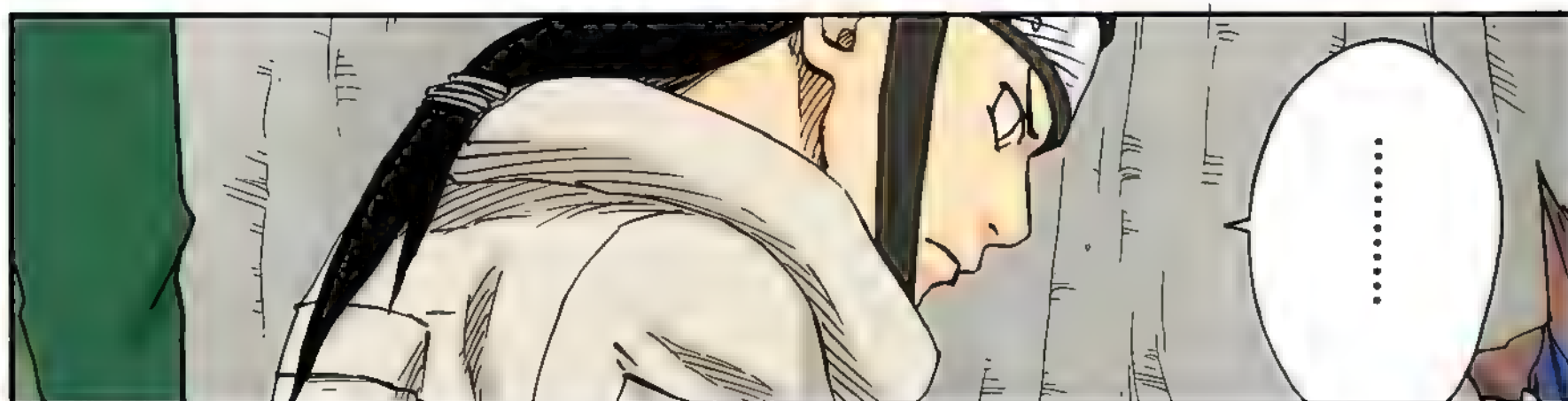
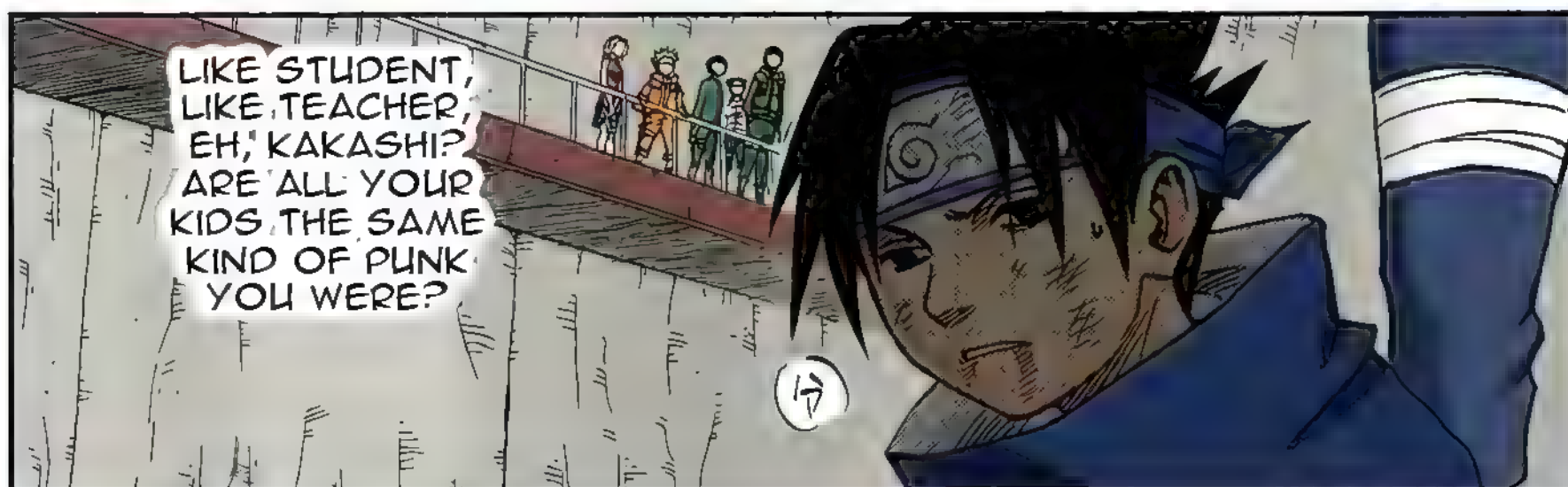
SASUKE ISN'T SOMEONE TO UNDER-ESTIMATE!

THE LOTUS,
OR RENG,
IS NOT A
SIMPLE THING
THAT CAN BE
MASTERED IN
A SINGLE DAY,
EVEN THROUGH
THE USE OF
THE SHARINGAN,
AND THE
EXPRESSIVENES
OF THAT
FINAL MOVE...

THE MOVES OF
THE LOTUS
SERIES--
A SEQUENCE
OF HIGH-SPEED
TAIJUTSU
PHYSICAL
SKILLS--
REQUIRE A
BODY THAT'S
BEEN GRADUALLY
TRAINED AND
HONED OVER
A LONG PERIOD.



LIKE STUDENT,
LIKE TEACHER,
EH, KAKASHI?
ARE ALL YOUR
KIDS THE SAME
KIND OF PUNK
YOU WERE?

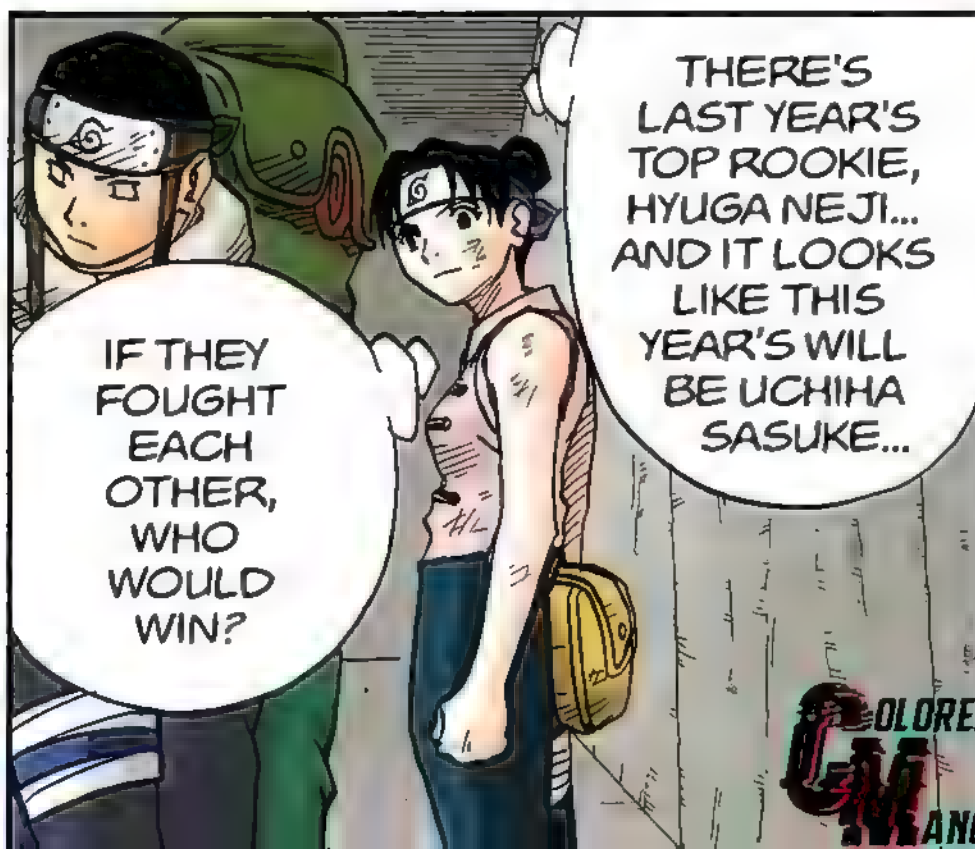


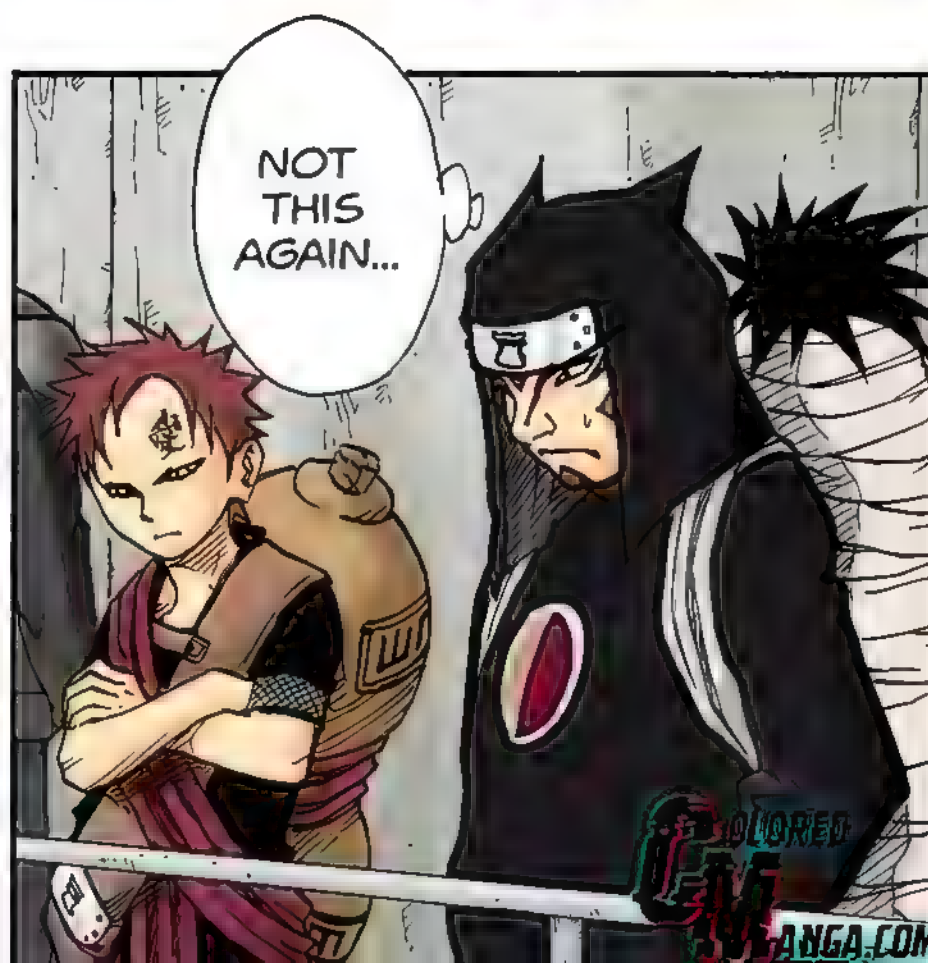
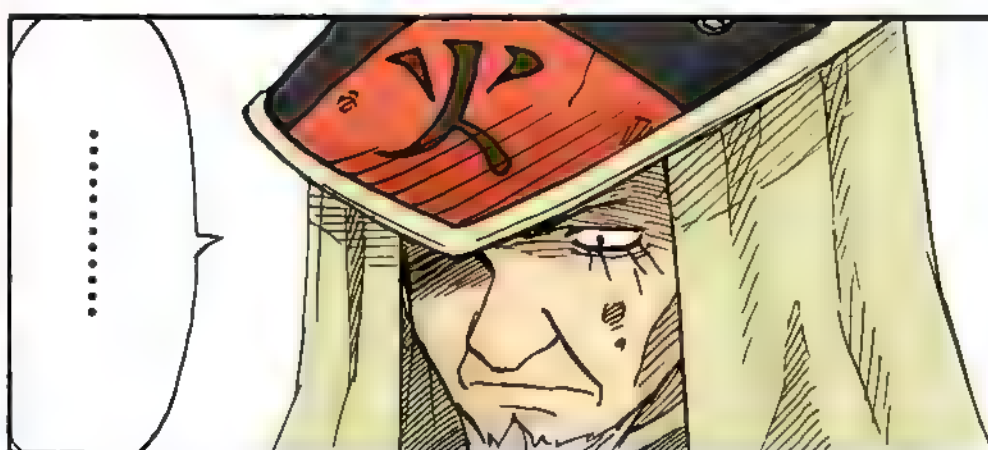
...COMING
INTO
THE FULL
FLOWER
OF HIS
SHARINGAN
ABILITY
AT SUCH
A YOUNG
AGE!

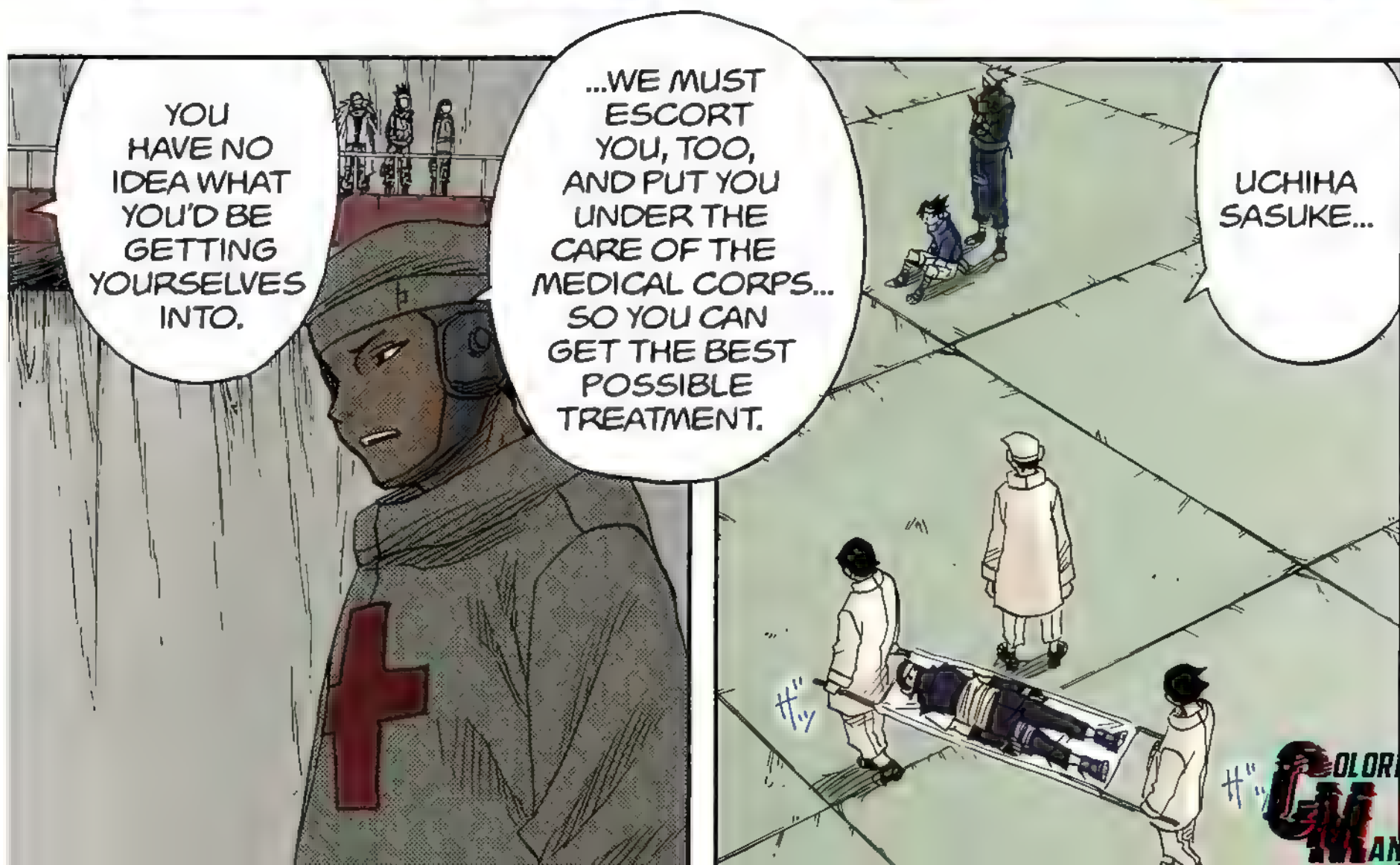
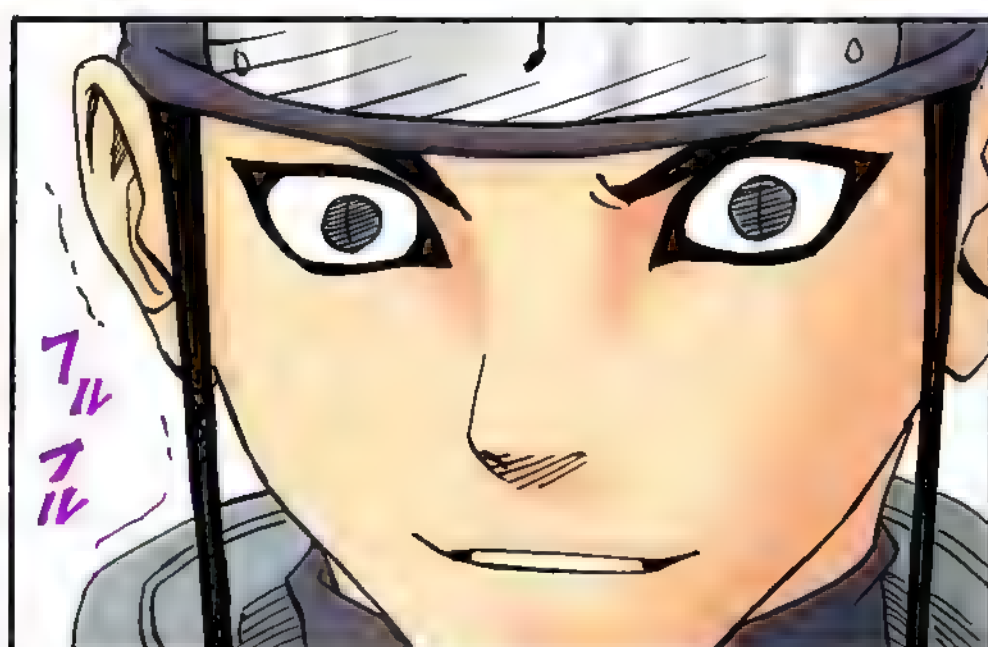
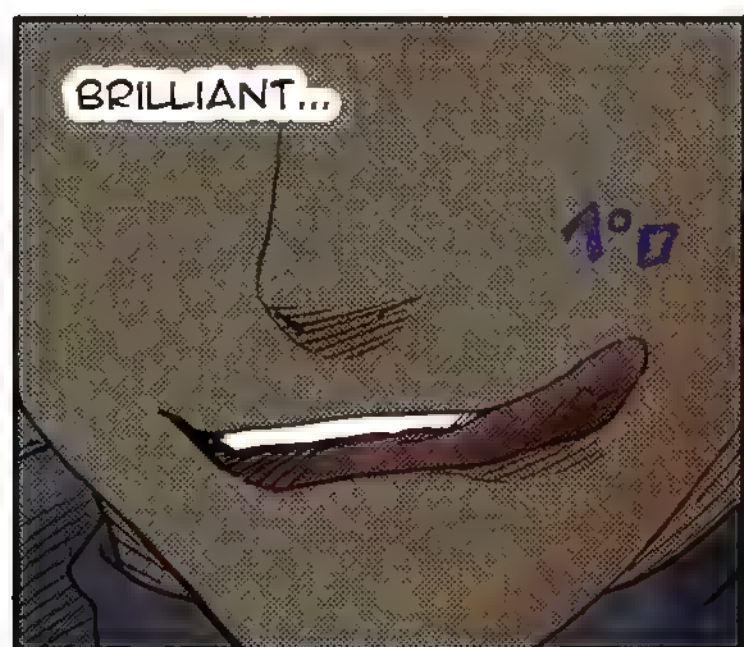
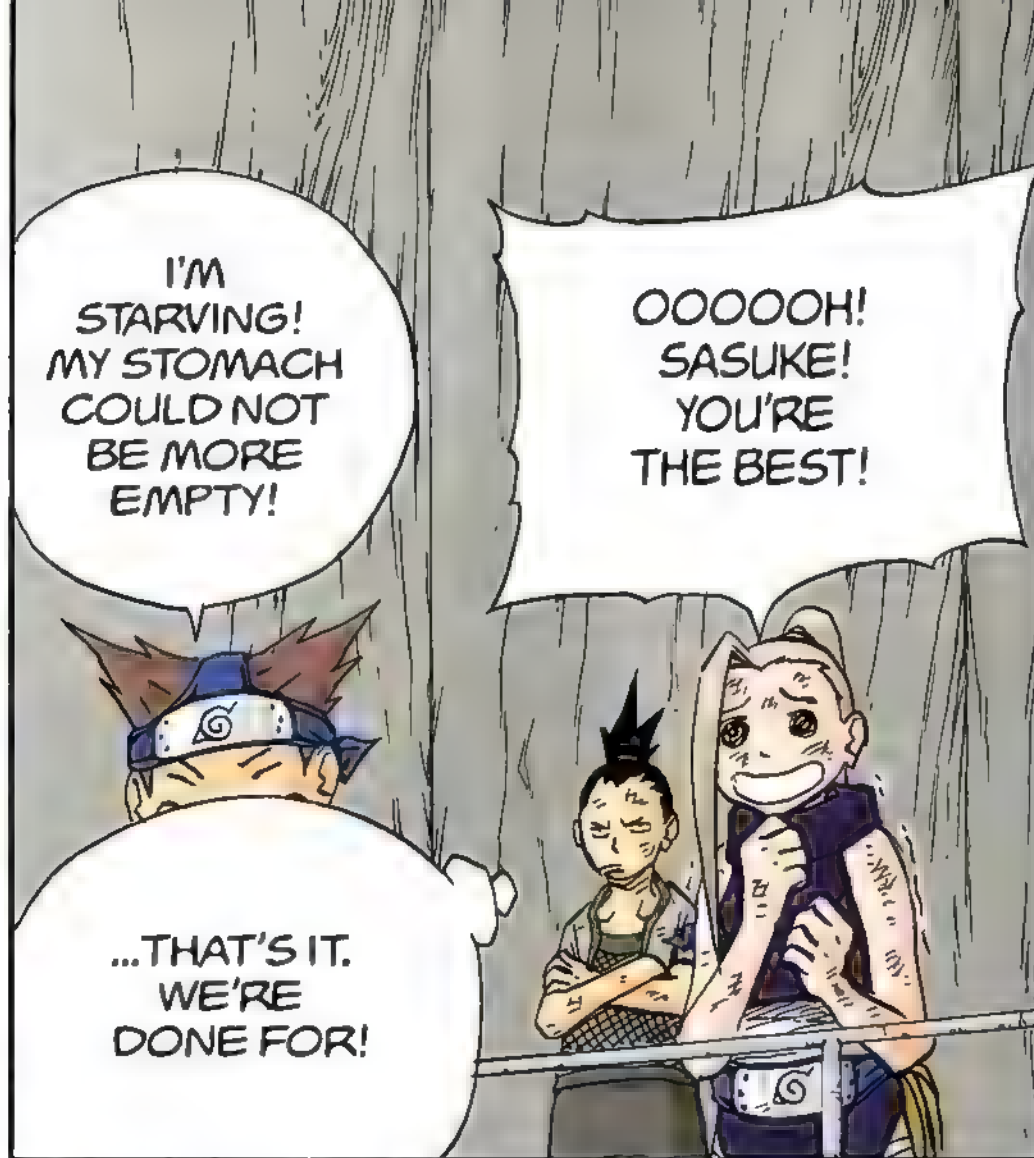
HE'S
QUITE
A
BOY...

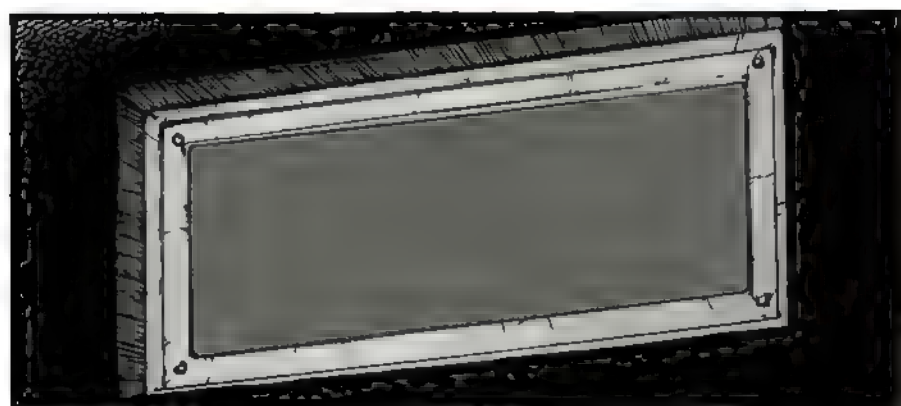
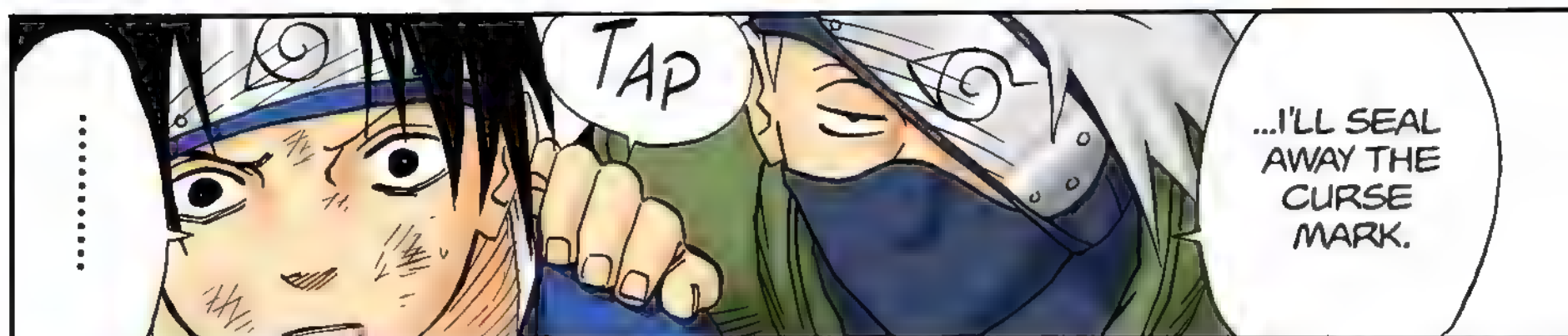
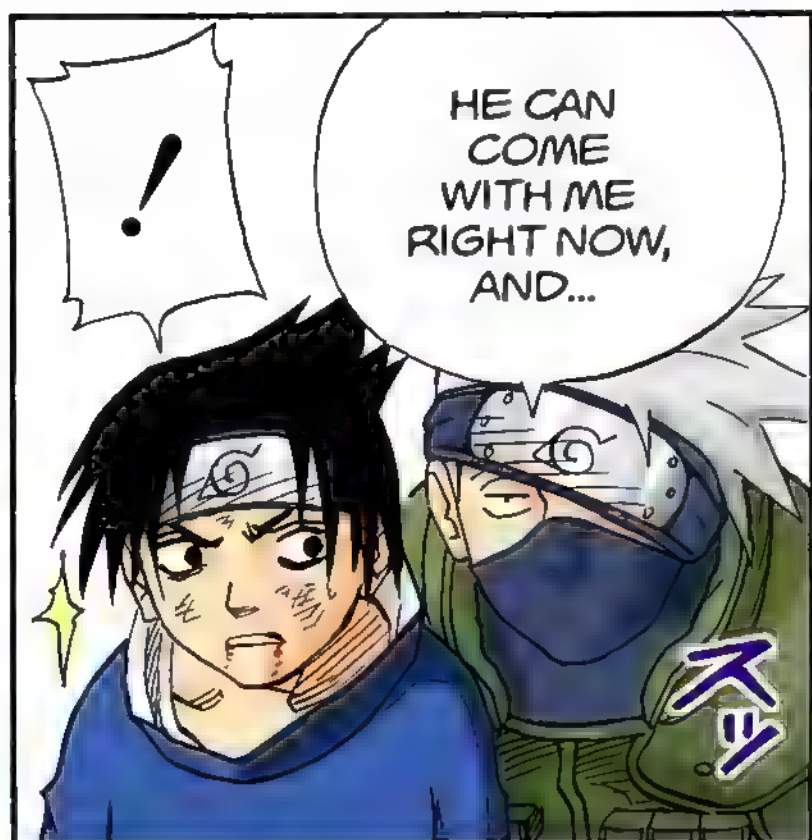
IF THEY
FOUGHT
EACH
OTHER,
WHO
WOULD
WIN?

THERE'S
LAST YEAR'S
TOP ROOKIE,
HYUGA NEJI...
AND IT LOOKS
LIKE THIS
YEAR'S WILL
BE UCHIHA
SASUKE...







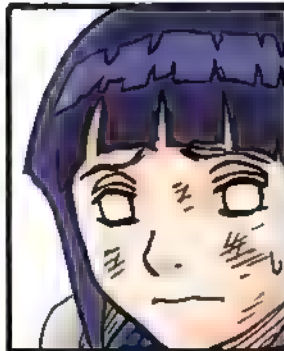
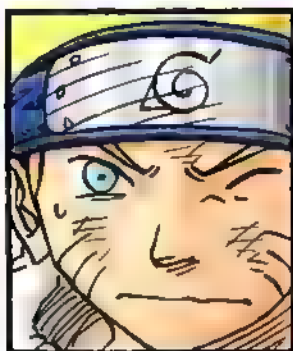


THIS
THING IS
SPREADING
LIKE A DISEASE,
AND IT'S ALREADY
CLOSE TO THE
POINT OF NO
RETURN.

I LET
YOU HAVE
YOUR OWN
WAY ONCE,
AND IT'S ONLY
MADE YOU
GREEDY.

DON'T
LET YOUR
EMOTIONS
CLOUD YOUR
JUDGMENT!

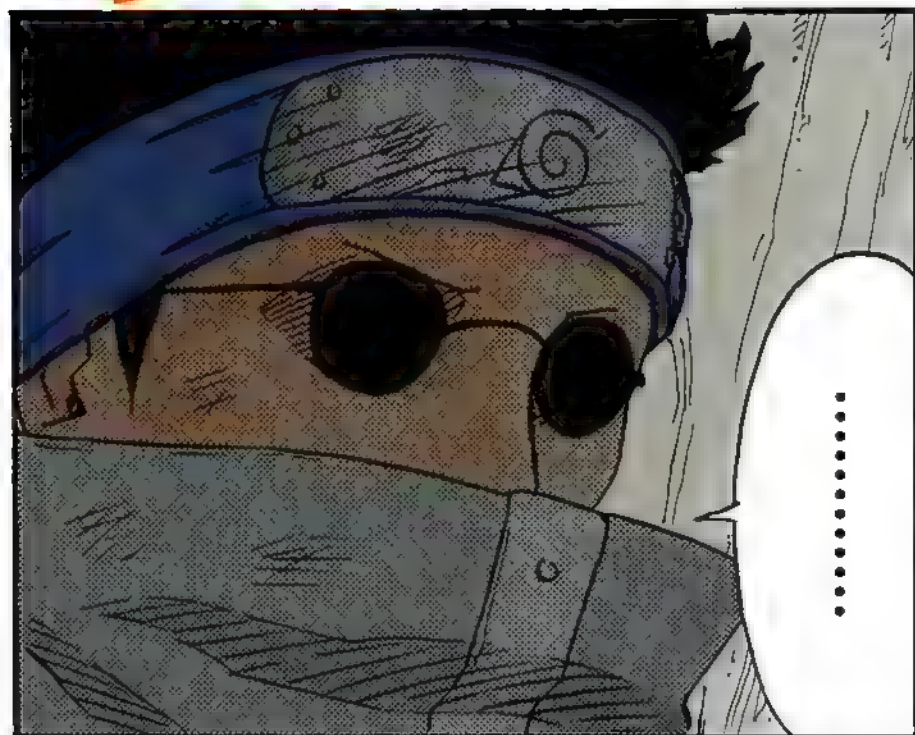
NO!



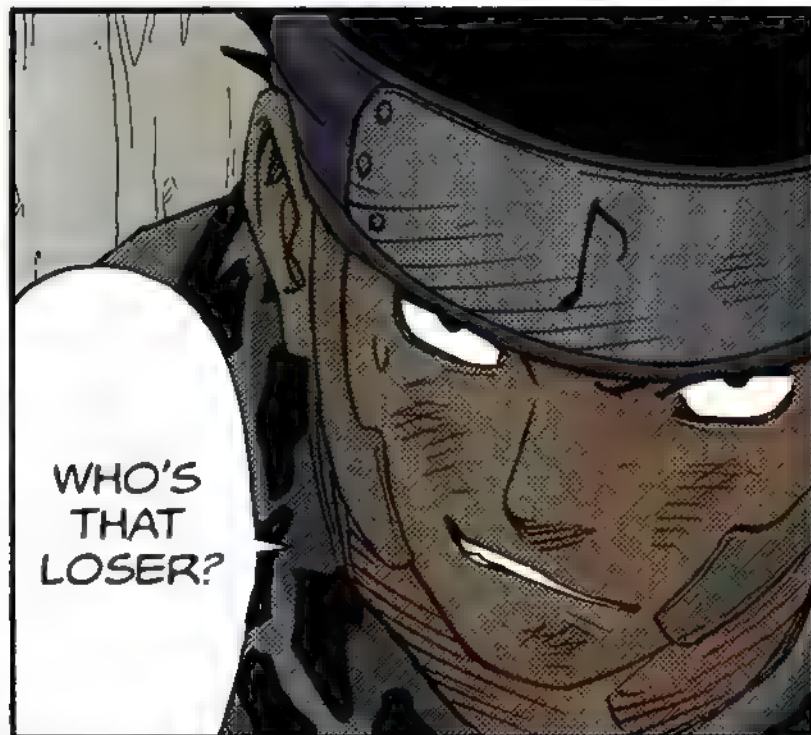
Zaku Abumi

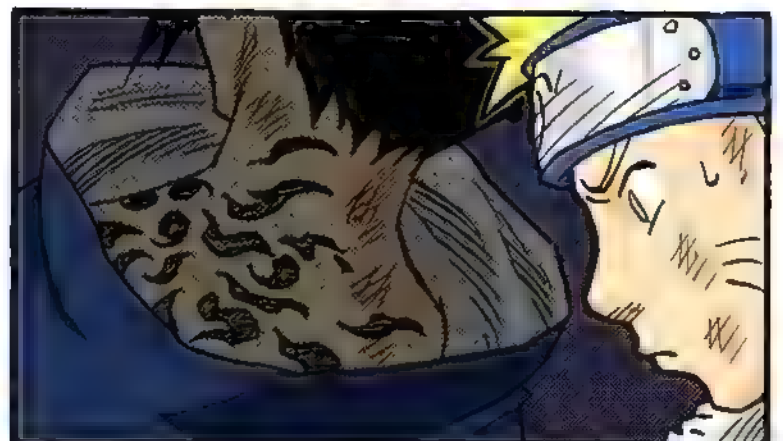
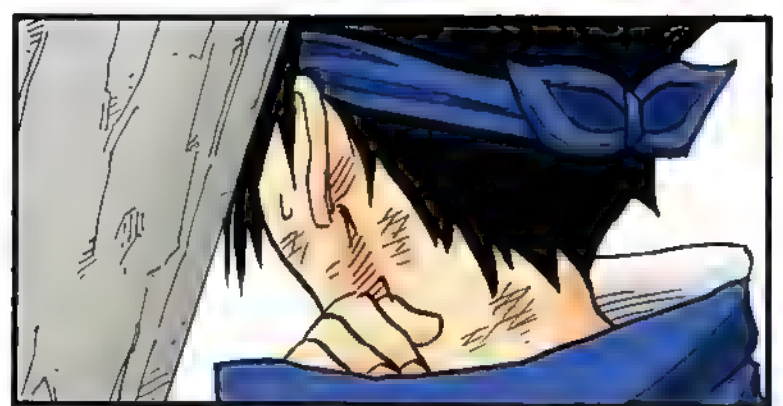
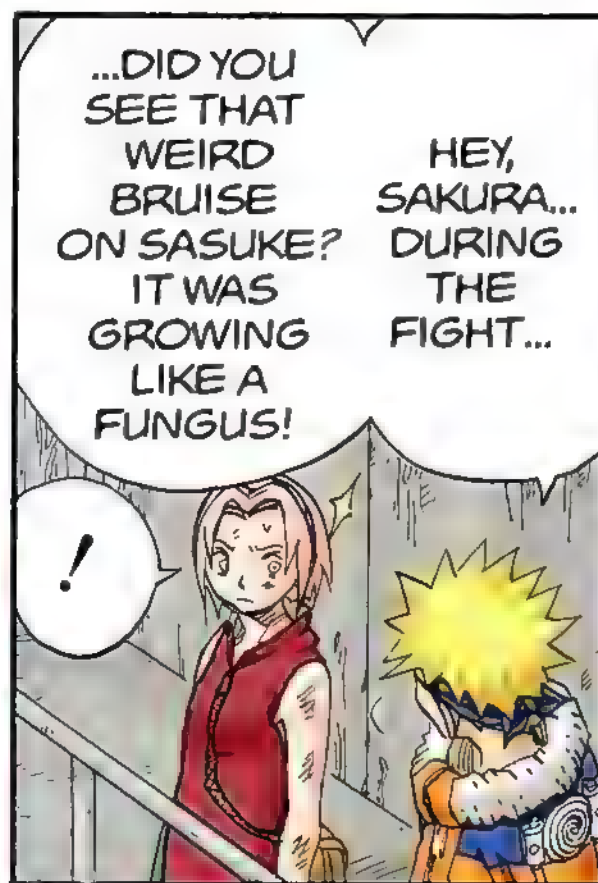
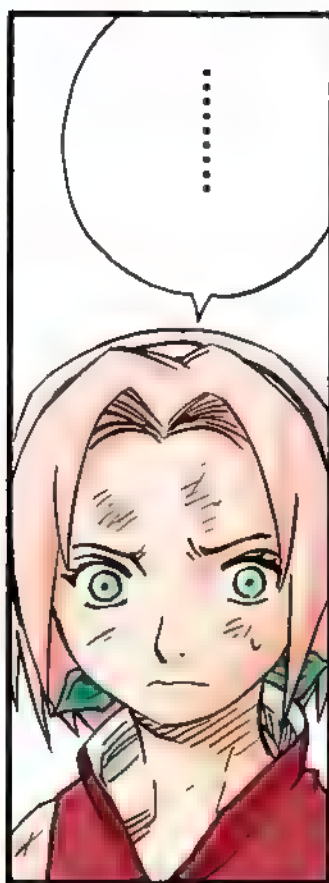
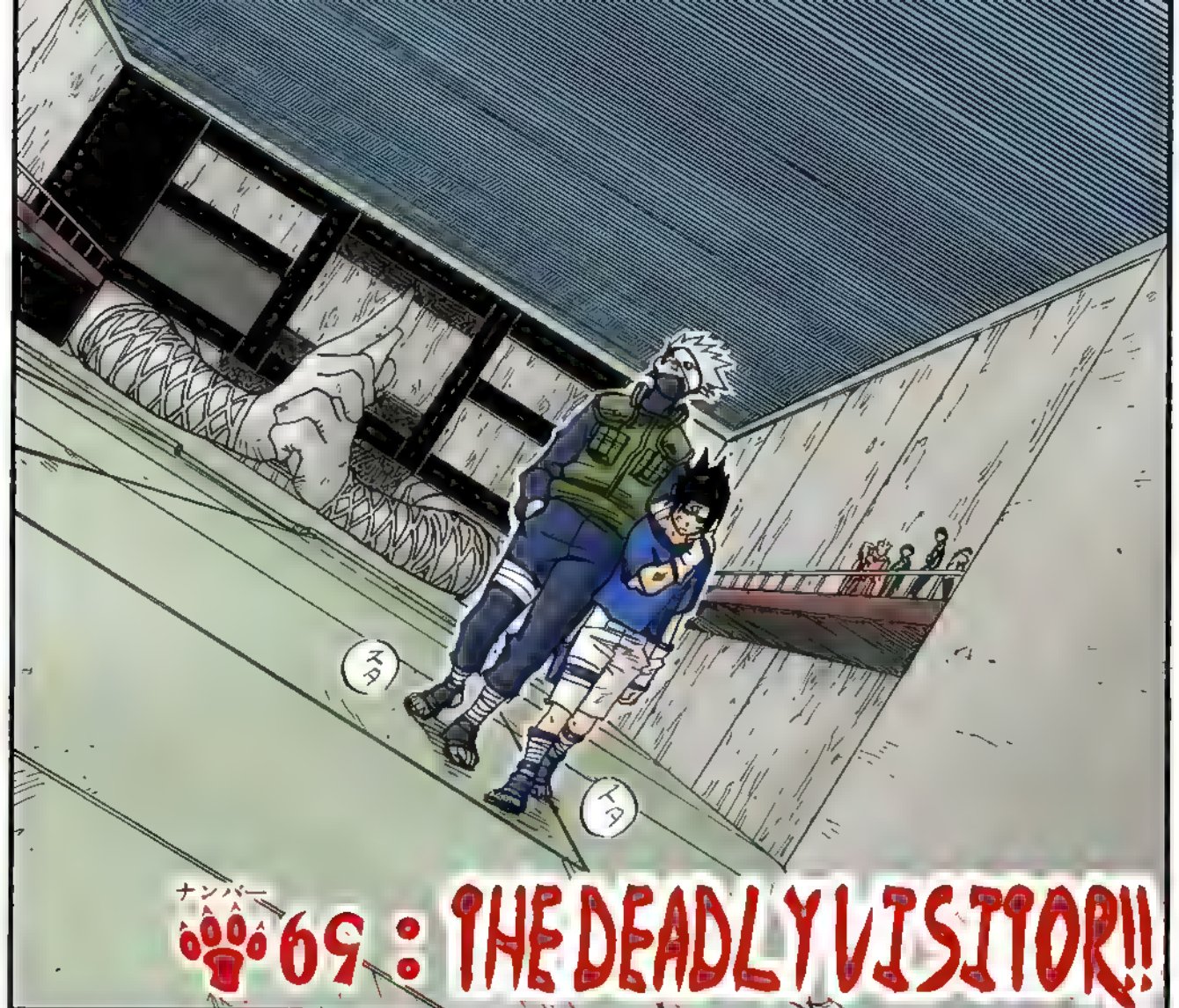
VS

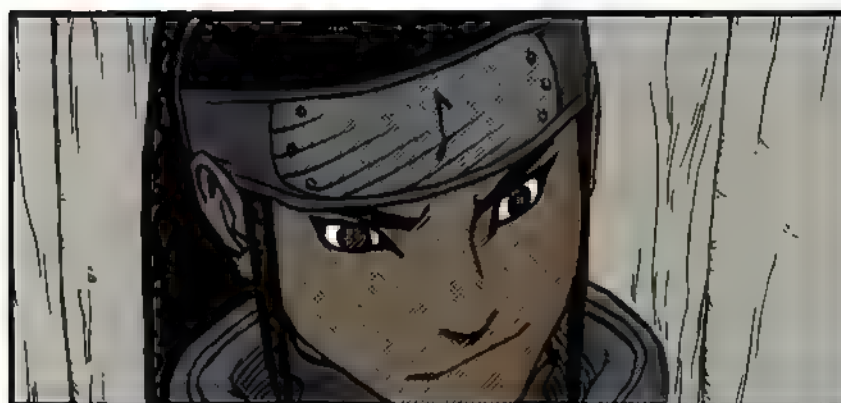
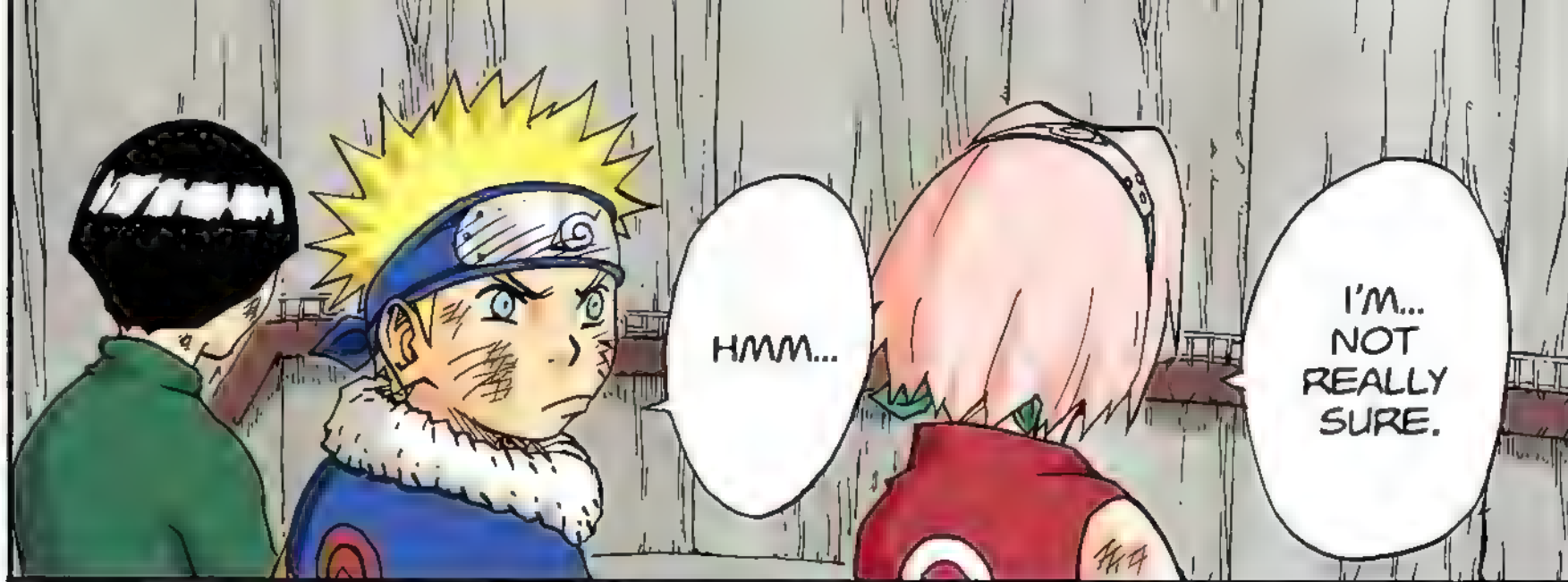
Aburame Shino

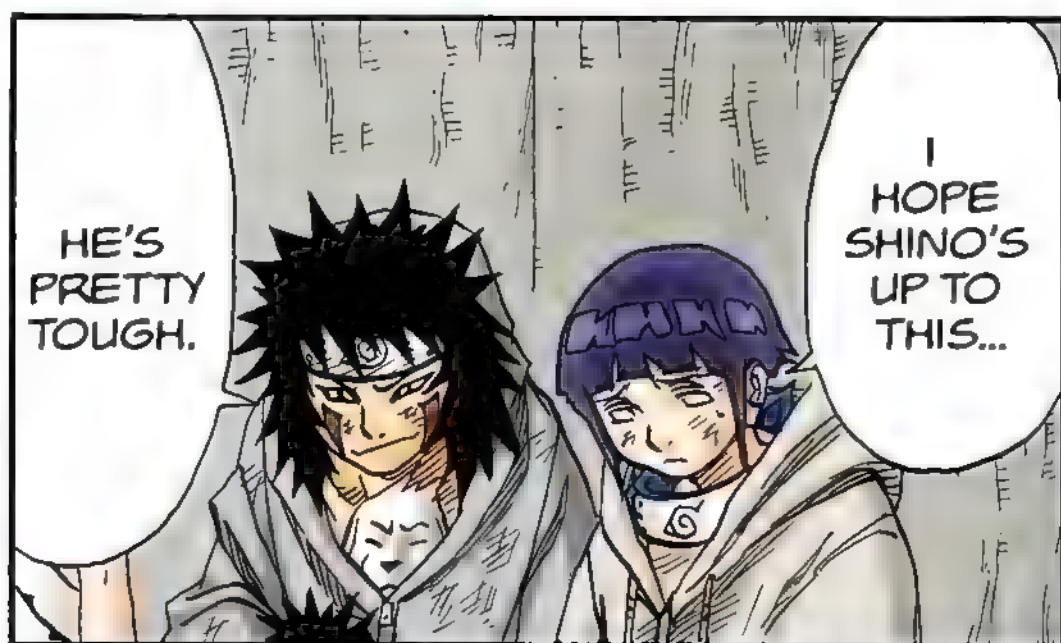
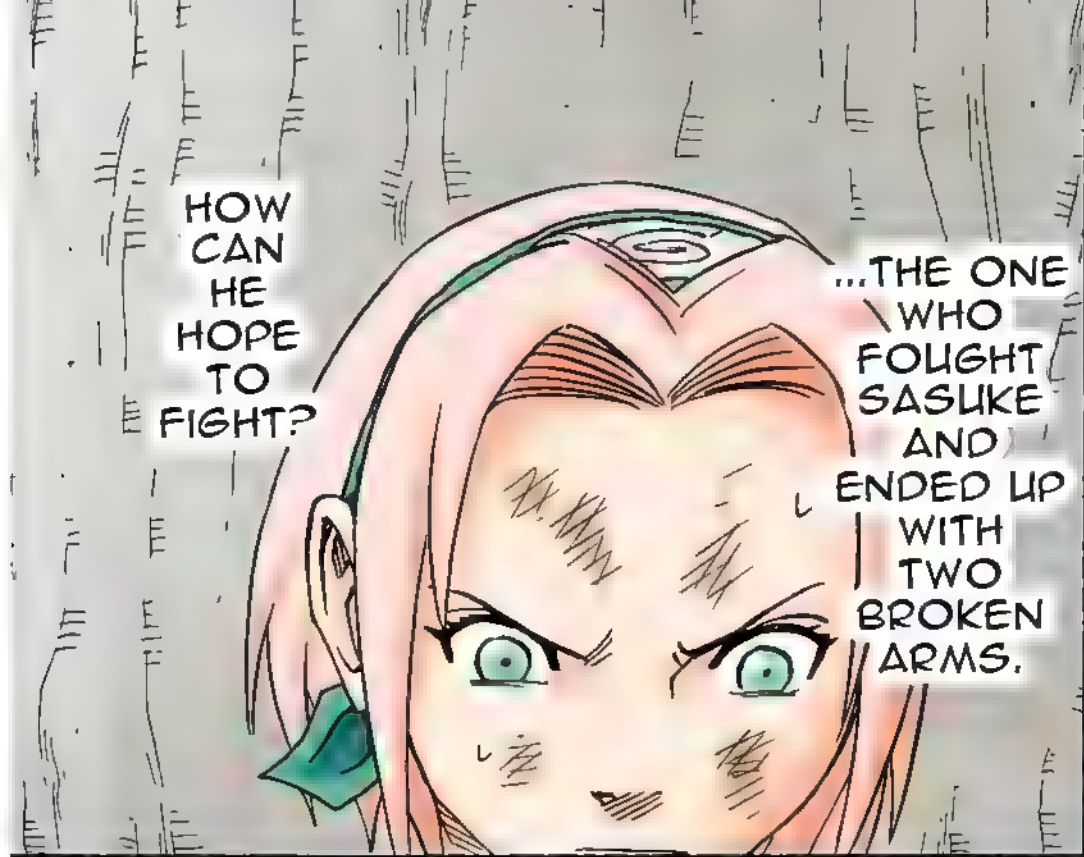


WHO'S
THAT
LOSER?



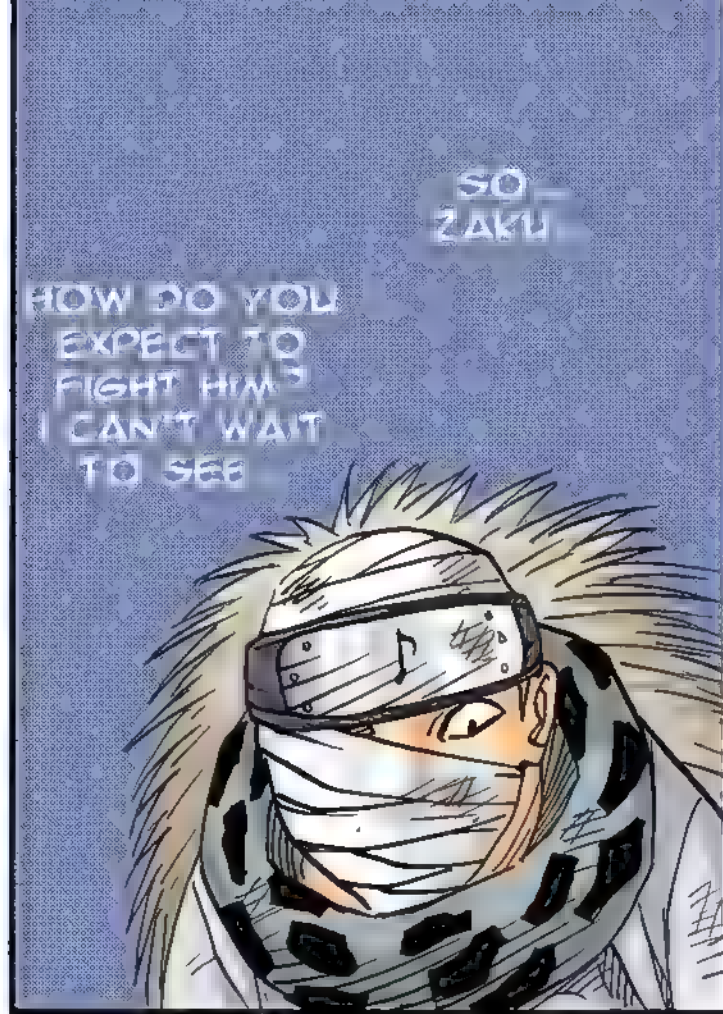








.....



SO
ZAKU

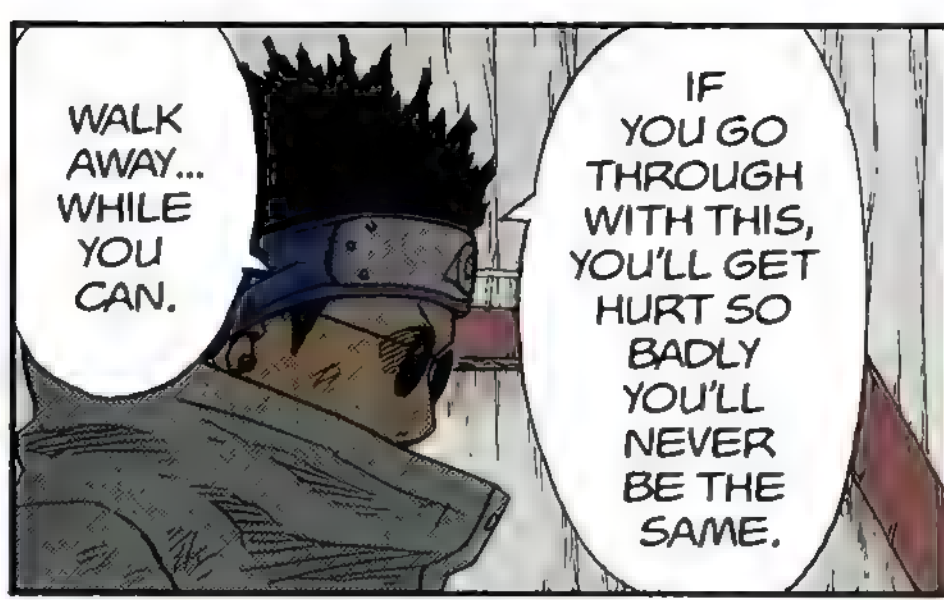
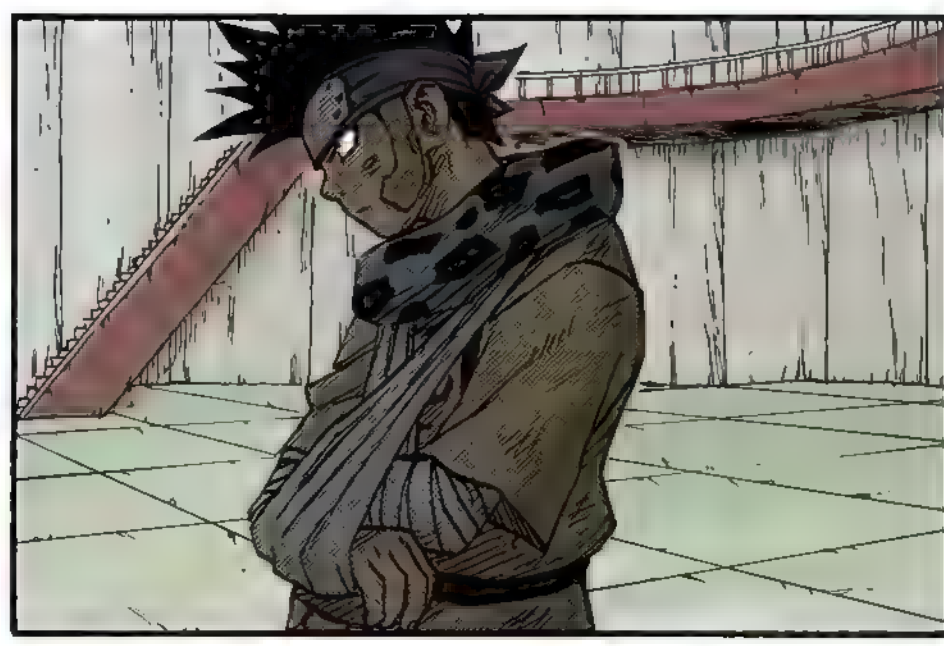
HOW DO YOU
EXPECT TO
FIGHT HIM?
I CAN'T WAIT
TO SEE



AND I'M
BETTING
I CAN
TAKE
YOU WITH
ONE HAND
TIED...
SO TO
SPEAK.

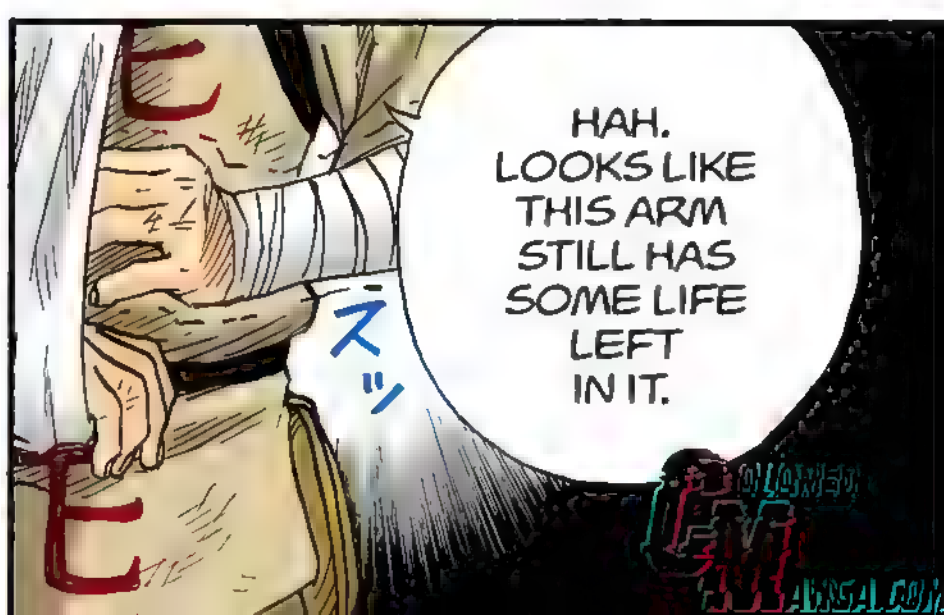
スッ

CRUNCH



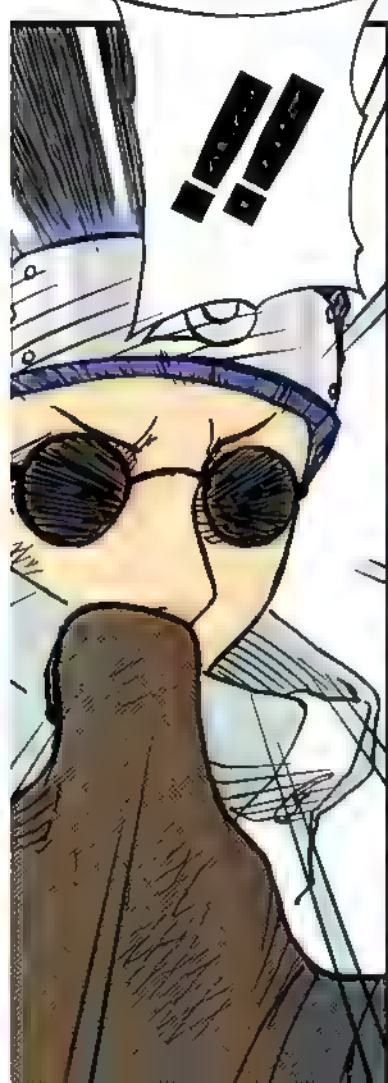
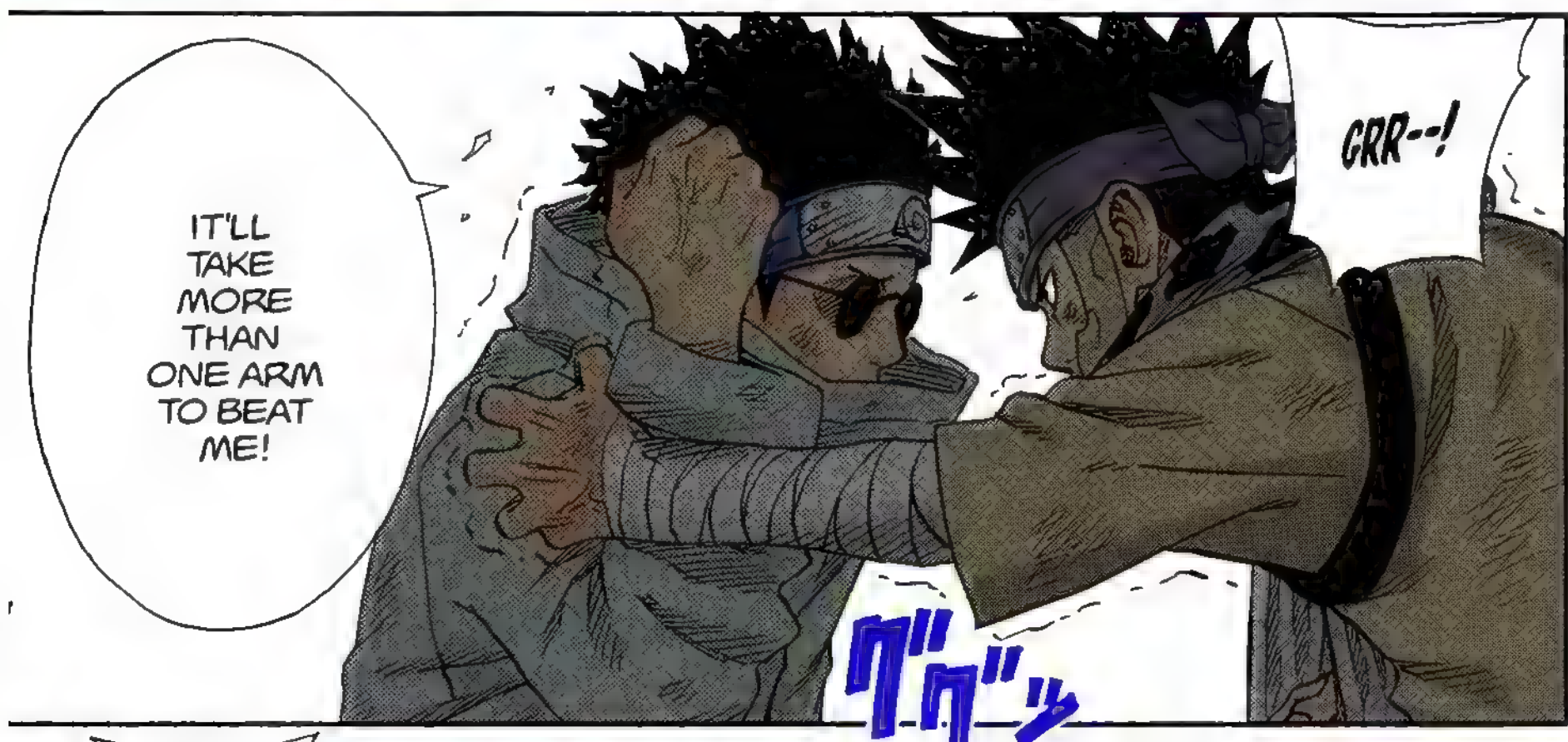
WALK
AWAY...
WHILE
YOU
CAN.

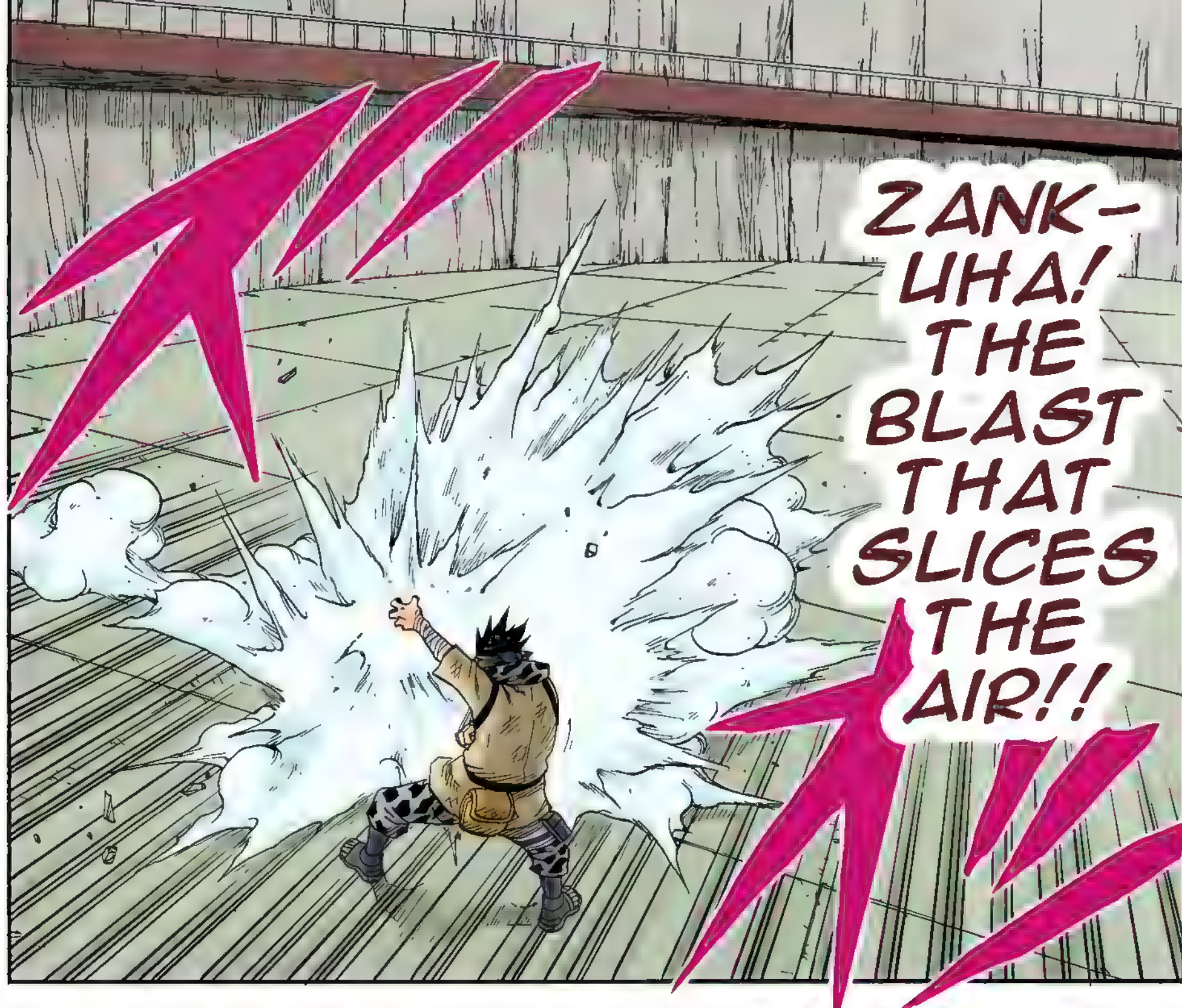
IF
YOU GO
THROUGH
WITH THIS,
YOU'LL GET
HURT SO
BADLY
YOU'LL
NEVER
BE THE
SAME.

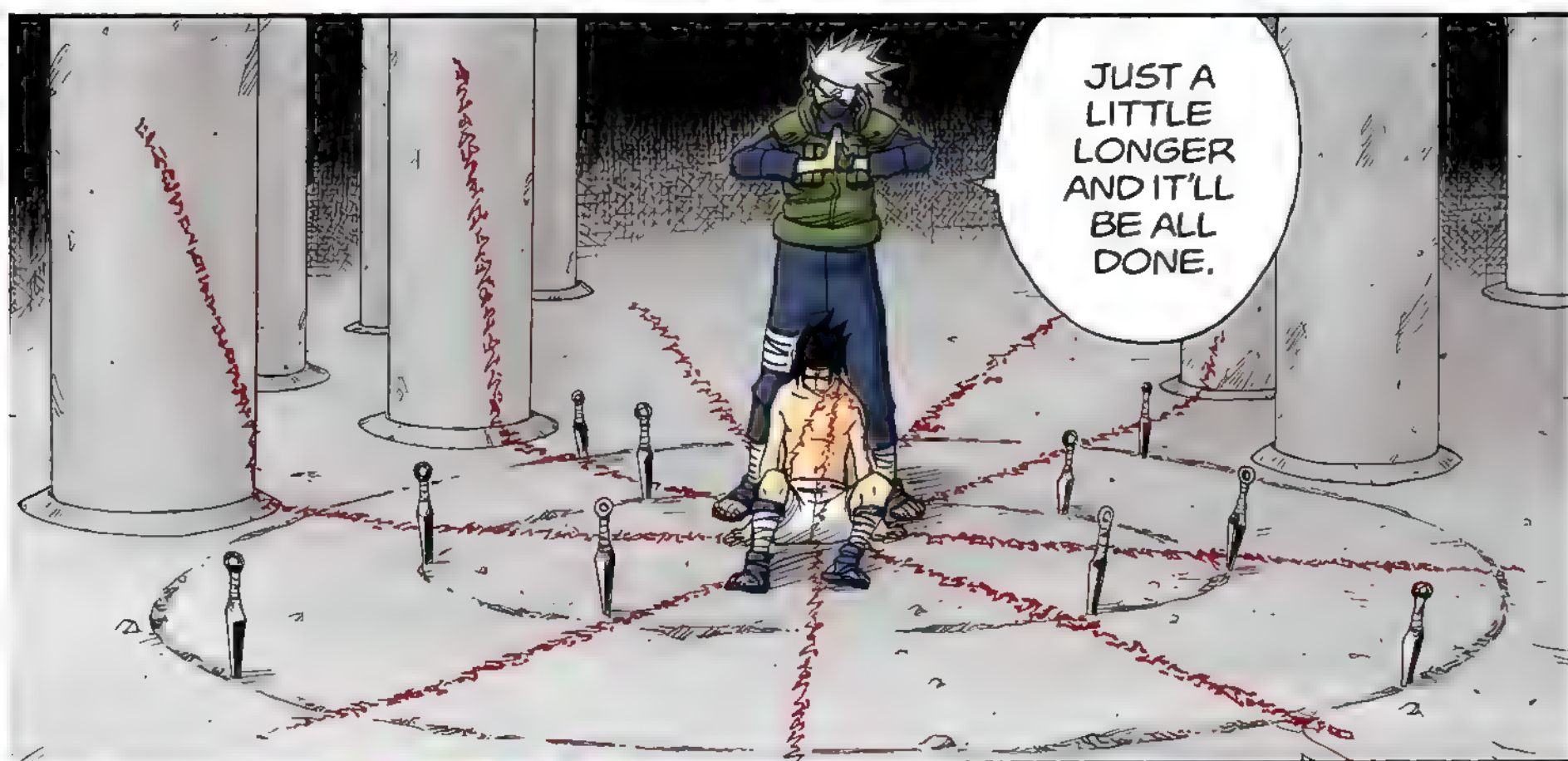
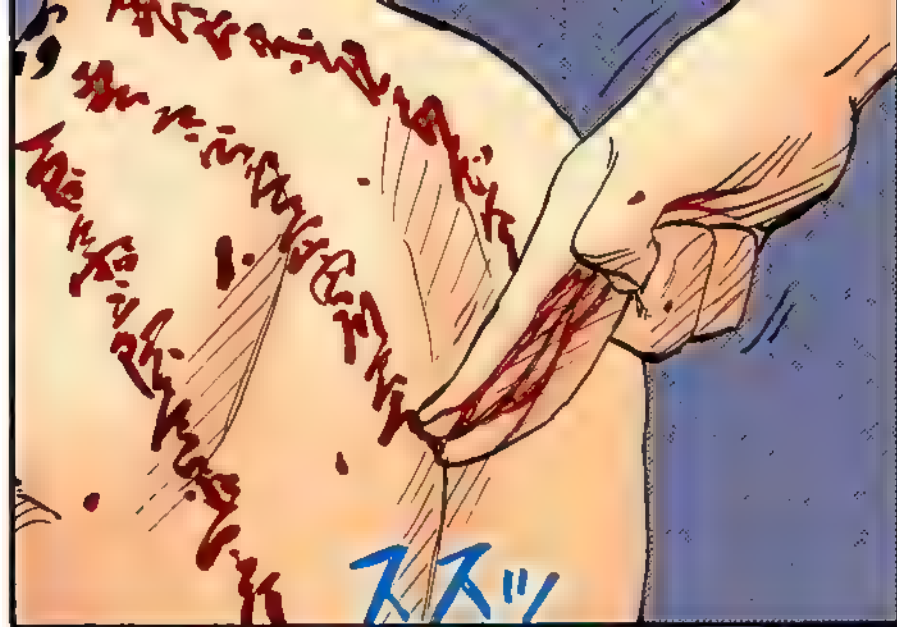


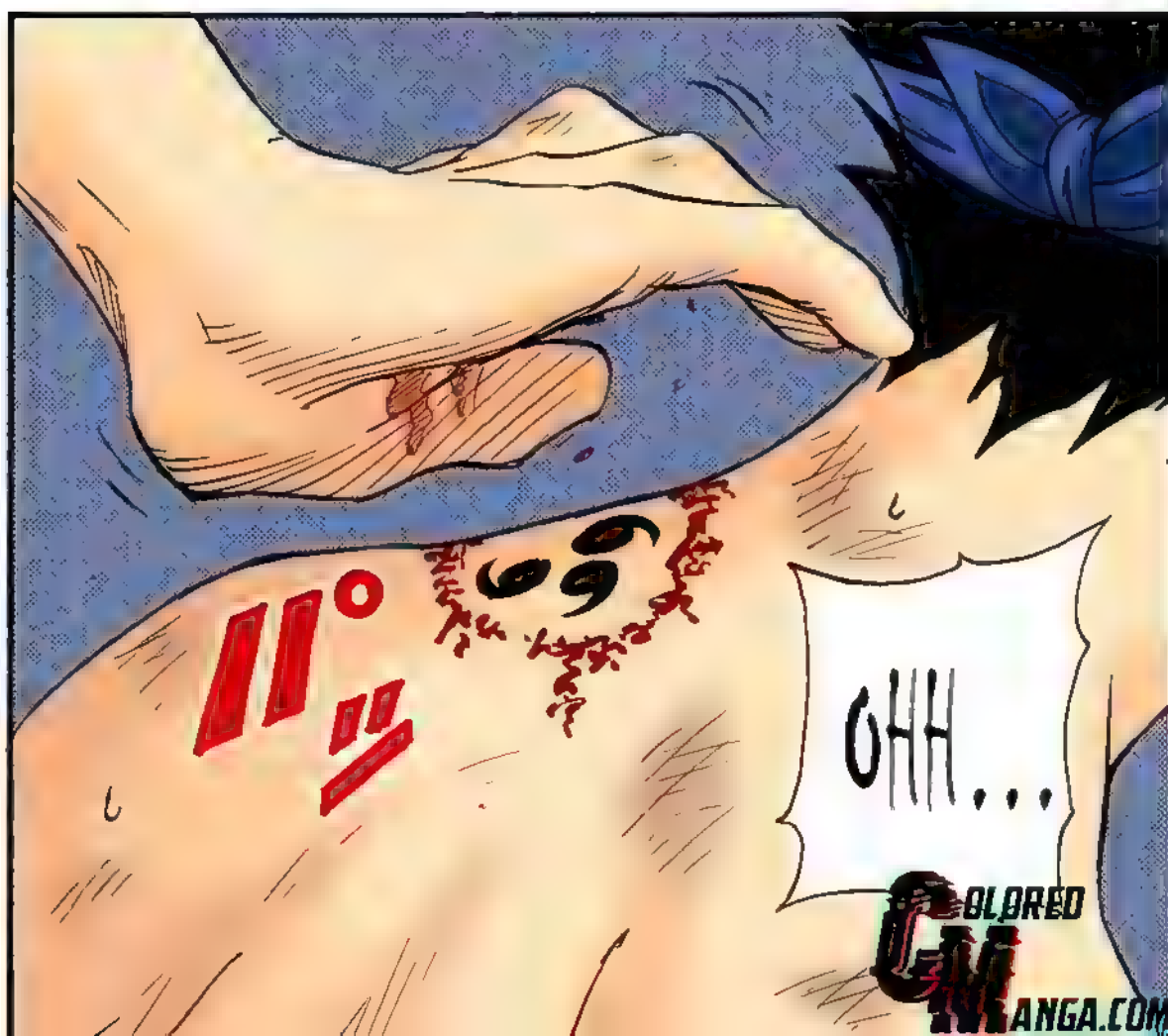
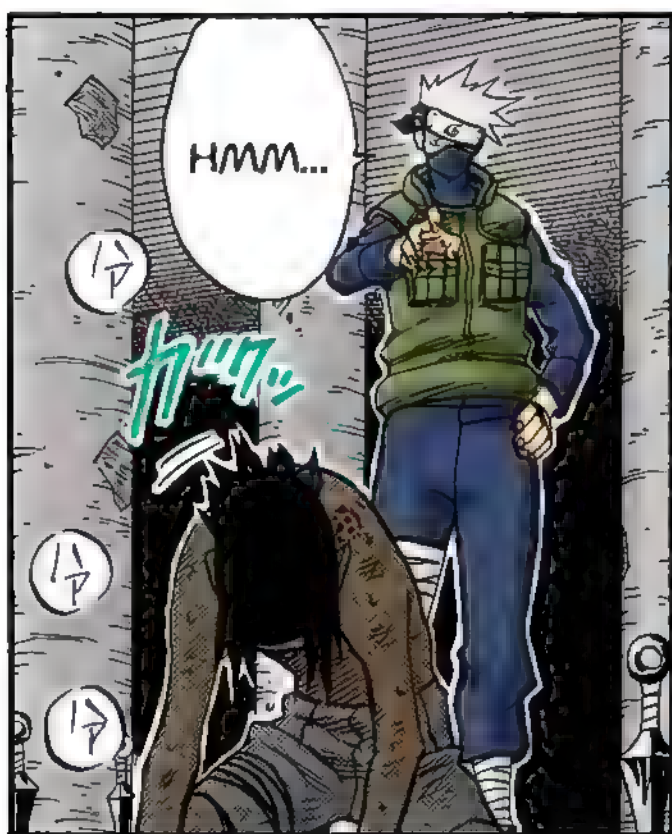
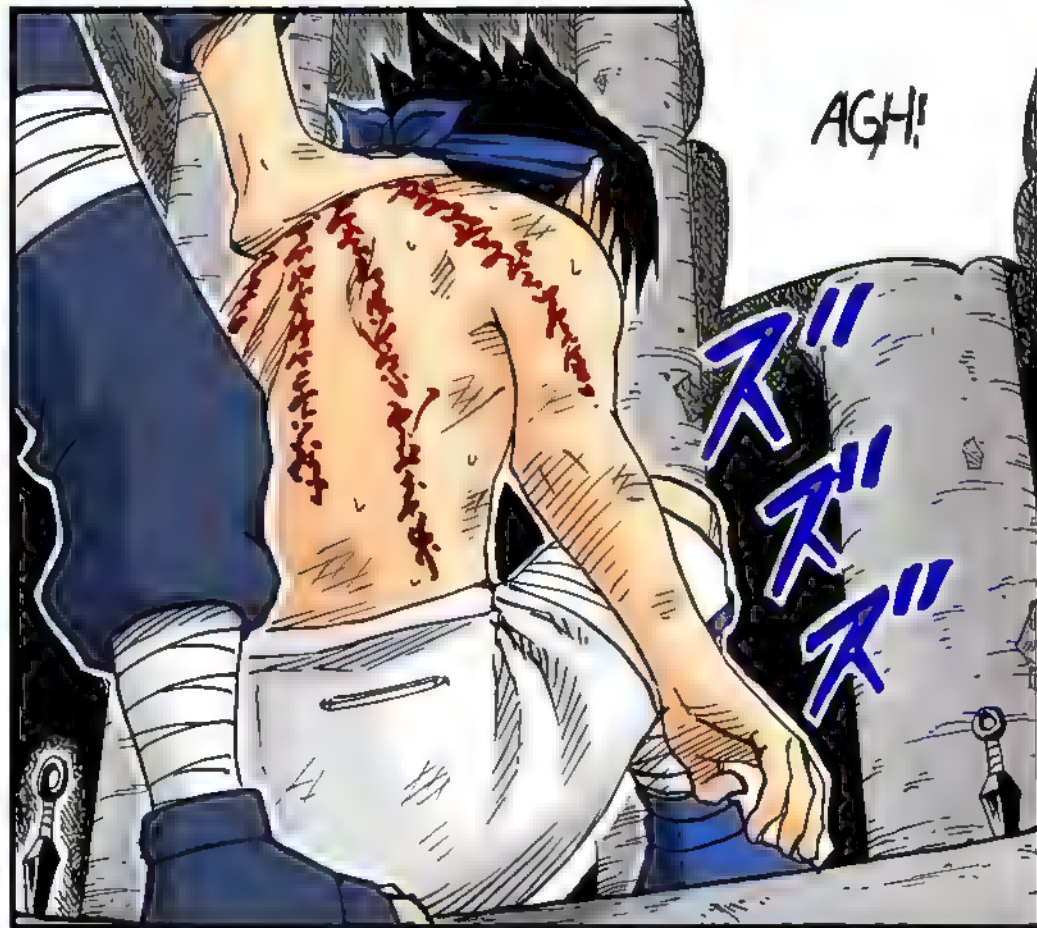
スッ

HAH.
LOOKS LIKE
THIS ARM
STILL HAS
SOME LIFE
LEFT
IN IT.











YOU HAVE TO WANT IT TO WORK... AND YOU MUST BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN POWER TO CONTROL IT. IF YOU DON'T...

...THE CURSE COULD HAVE ITS WAY AGAIN!

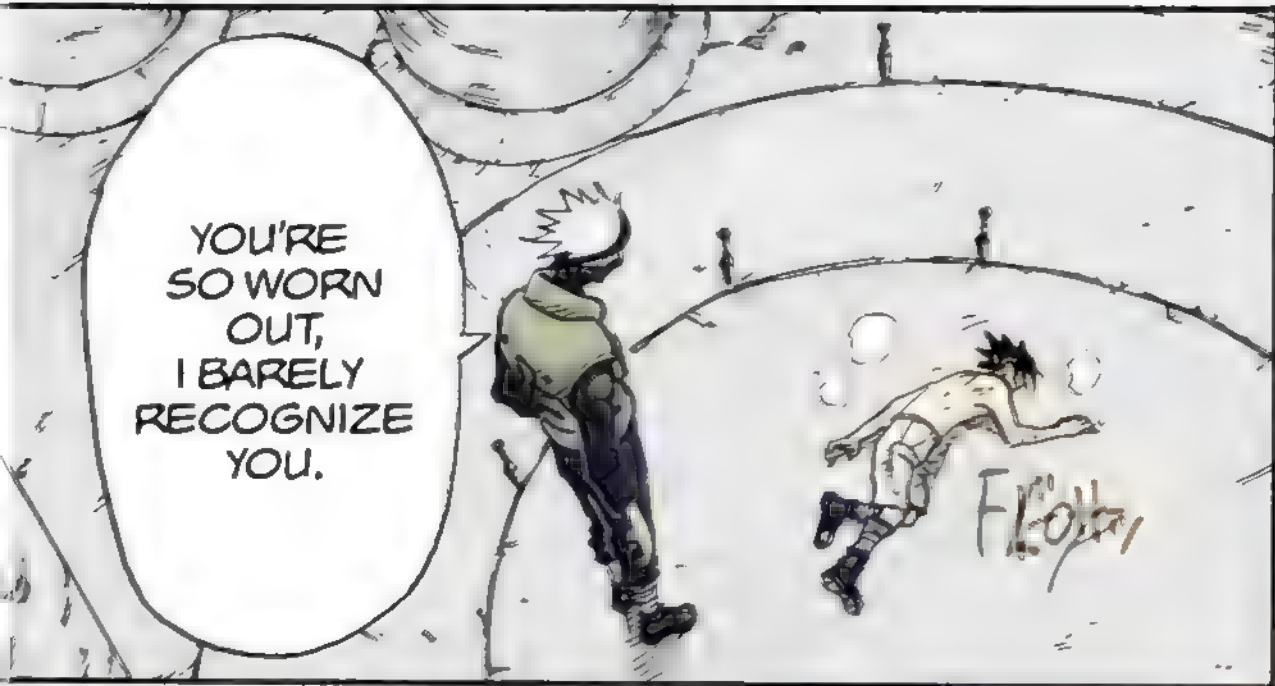
SASUKE... THE FOUNDATION OF THE SPELL'S POWER IS IN THE STRENGTH OF YOUR OWN WILL.



BUT...

EVEN IF THE CURSE MARK AWAKENS AGAIN...

...THE POWER OF THIS FUJAHŌIN SPELL SHOULD CONTAIN IT.



YOU'RE SO WORN OUT, I BARELY RECOGNIZE YOU.



...YOU'RE...

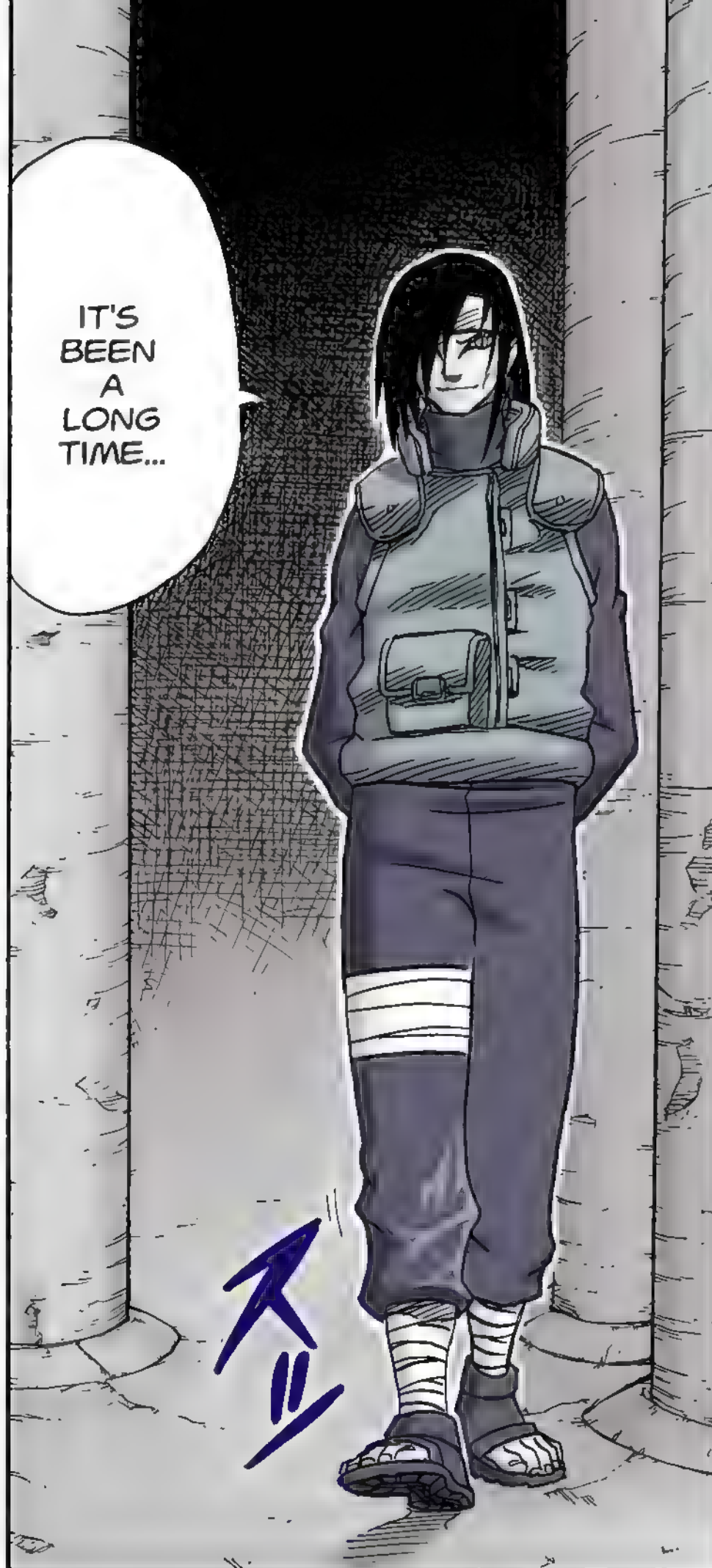


...LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP.

SKF



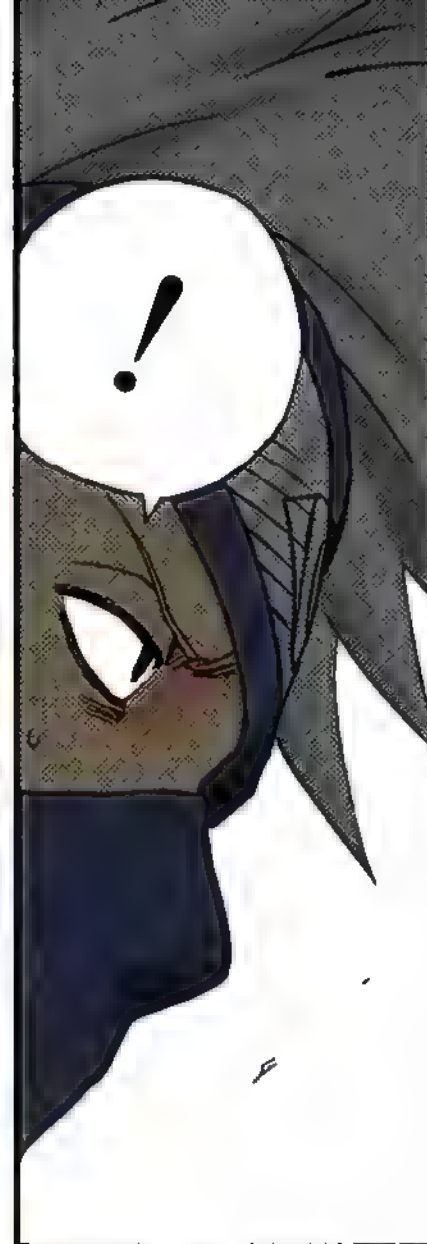
SO... YOU'VE MASTERED THE SPELLS OF SEALING, KAKASHI?





...THE
SHARINGAN!!

...IT'S...



...UCHIHA
BLOOD!

I
MUST
POSSESS...



...

!!



...



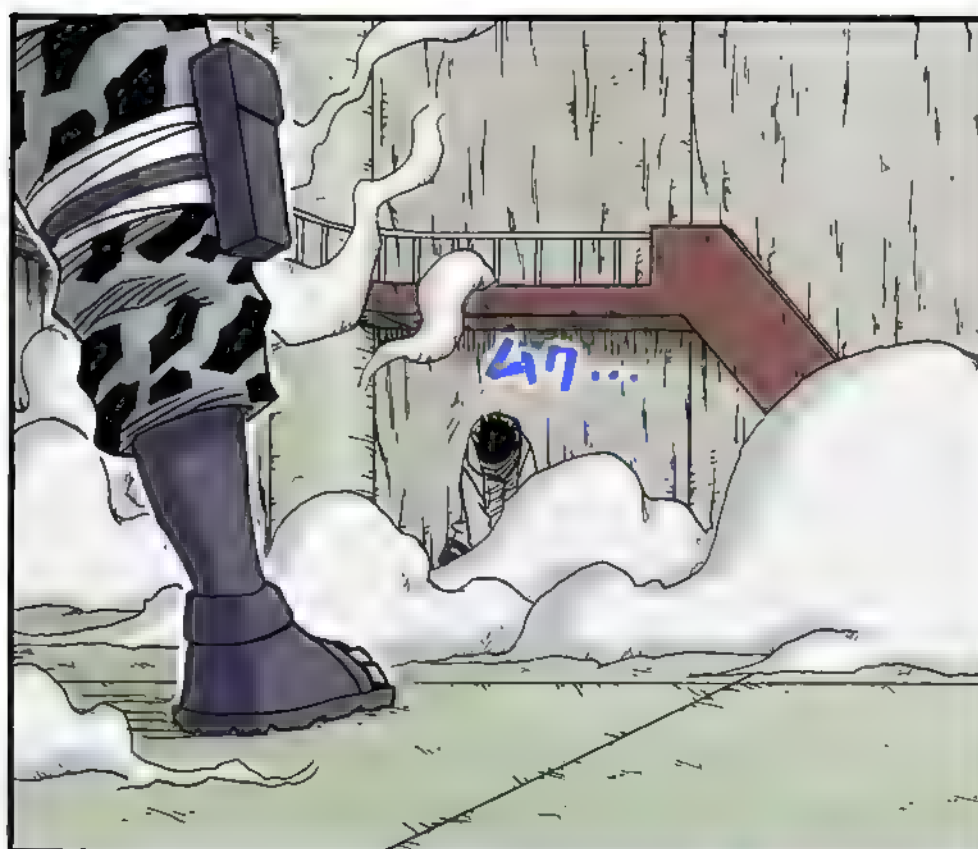
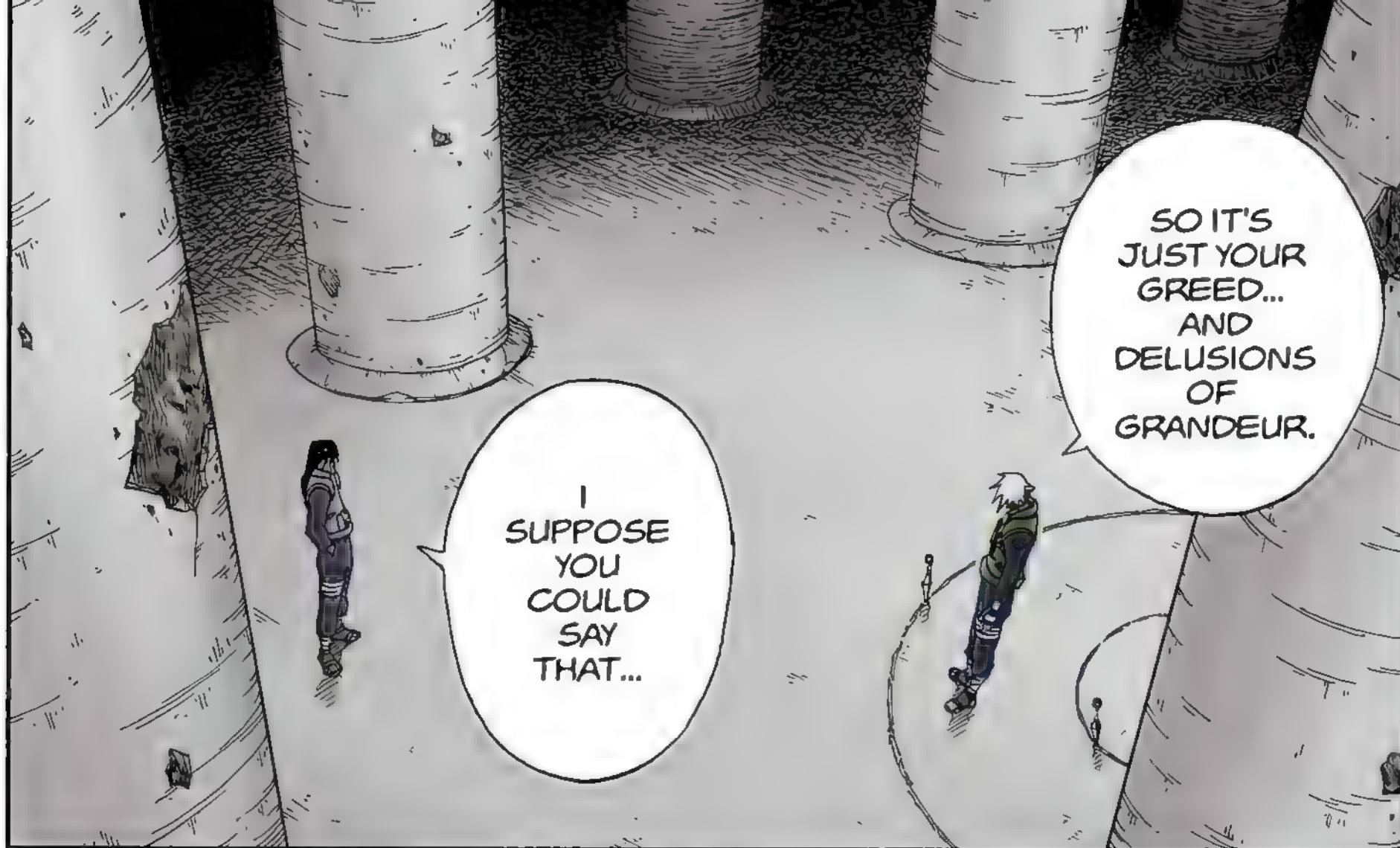
IS IT
BECOMING
CLEAR?



...THE NEWLY
CREATED
VILLAGE
OF HIDING
IN SOUND --
OTOGAKURE...

...THAT
IS MY
HOME,
YOU SEE...

WHAT
FOR...?!





...WH-WHAT
THE...?!

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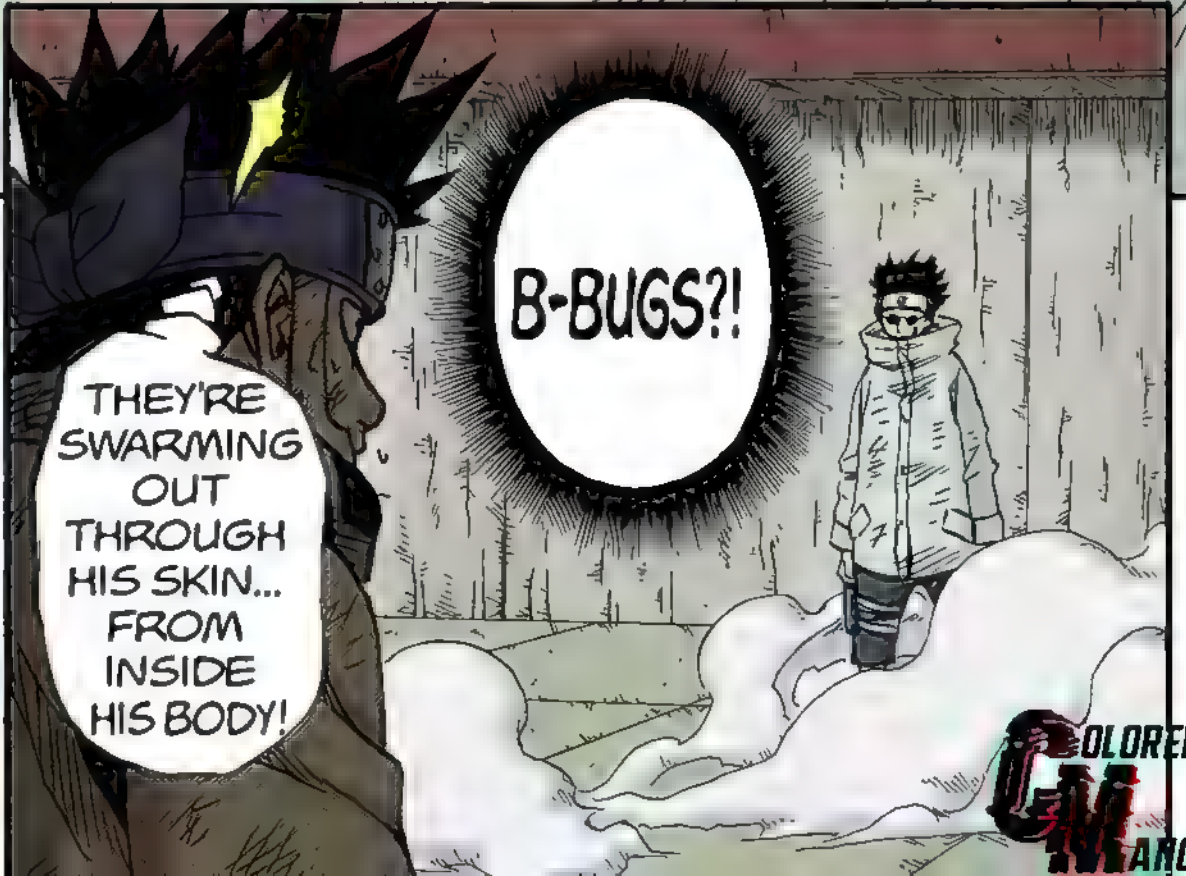
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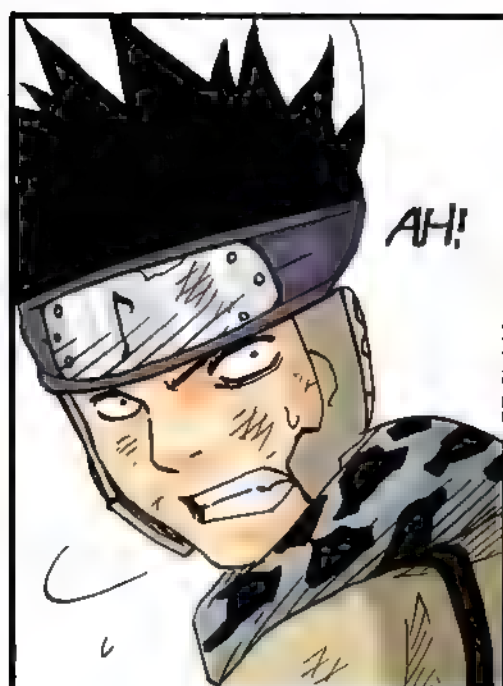
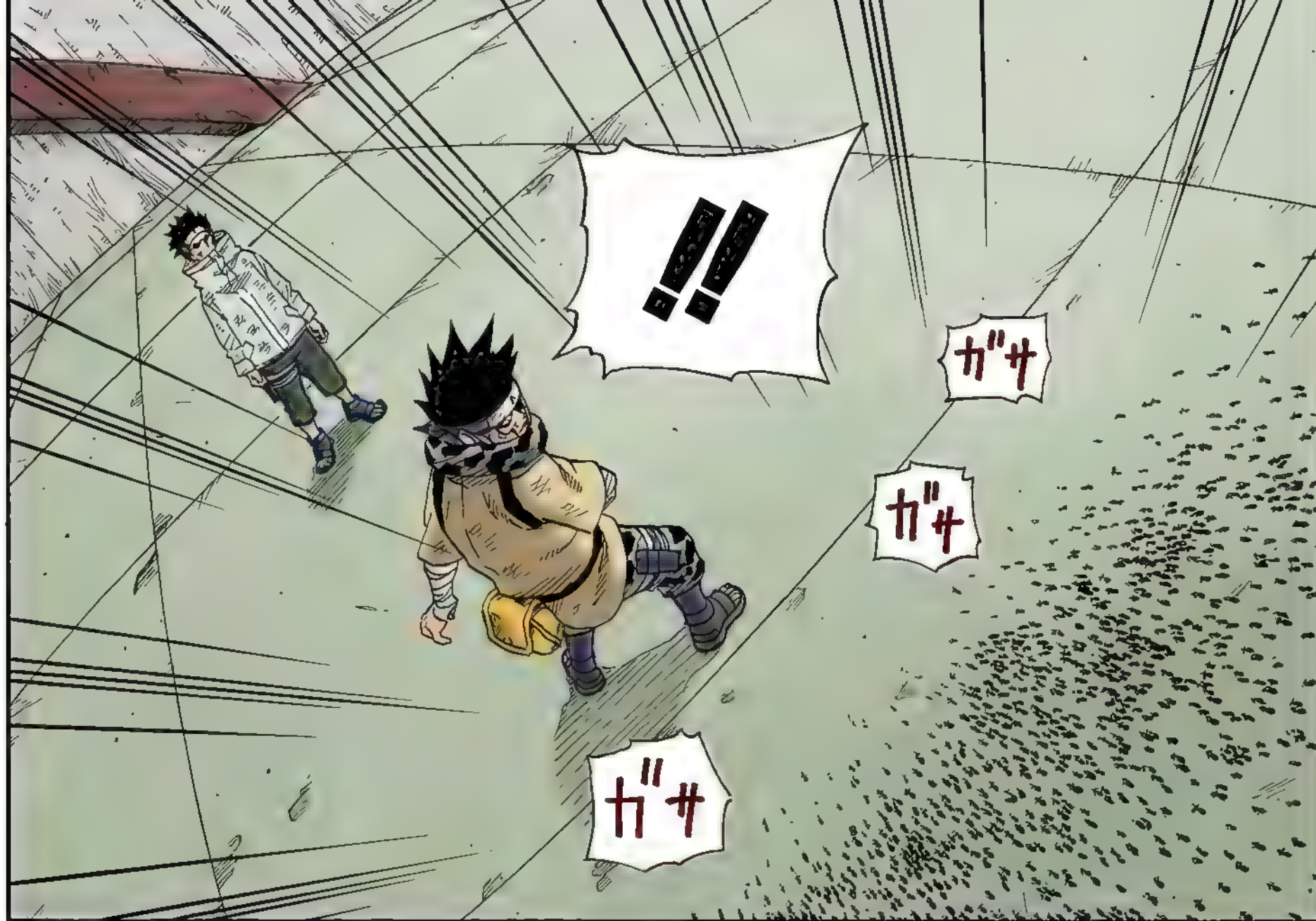
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B-BUGS?!

THEY'RE
SWARMING
OUT
THROUGH
HIS SKIN...
FROM
INSIDE
HIS BODY!



AH!

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL SURVIVE AN ONSLAUGHT OF THIS MAGNITUDE...

SO... IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE...

DO YOU LIKE MY LITTLE FRIENDS? THEY'RE CALLED KIKAI CHU-- PARASITIC DESTRUCTION BEETLES. THEY ATTACK IN SWARMS AND DEVOUR THE CHAKRA OF THEIR PREY.



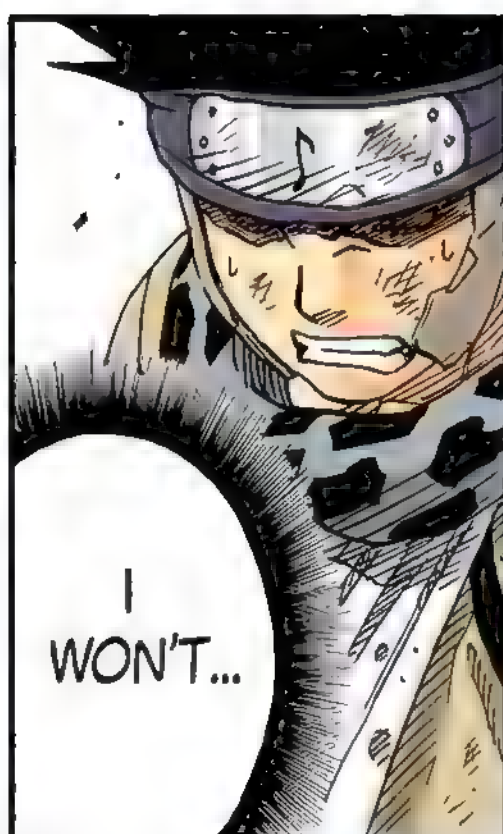
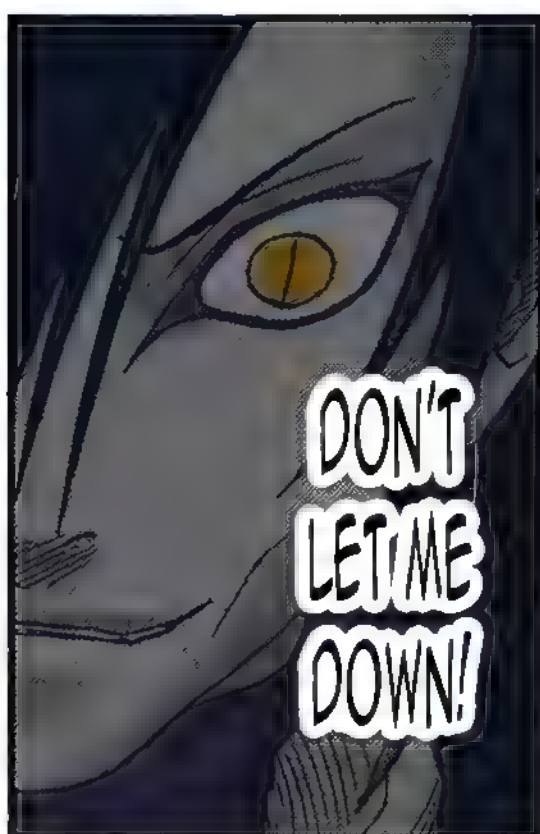
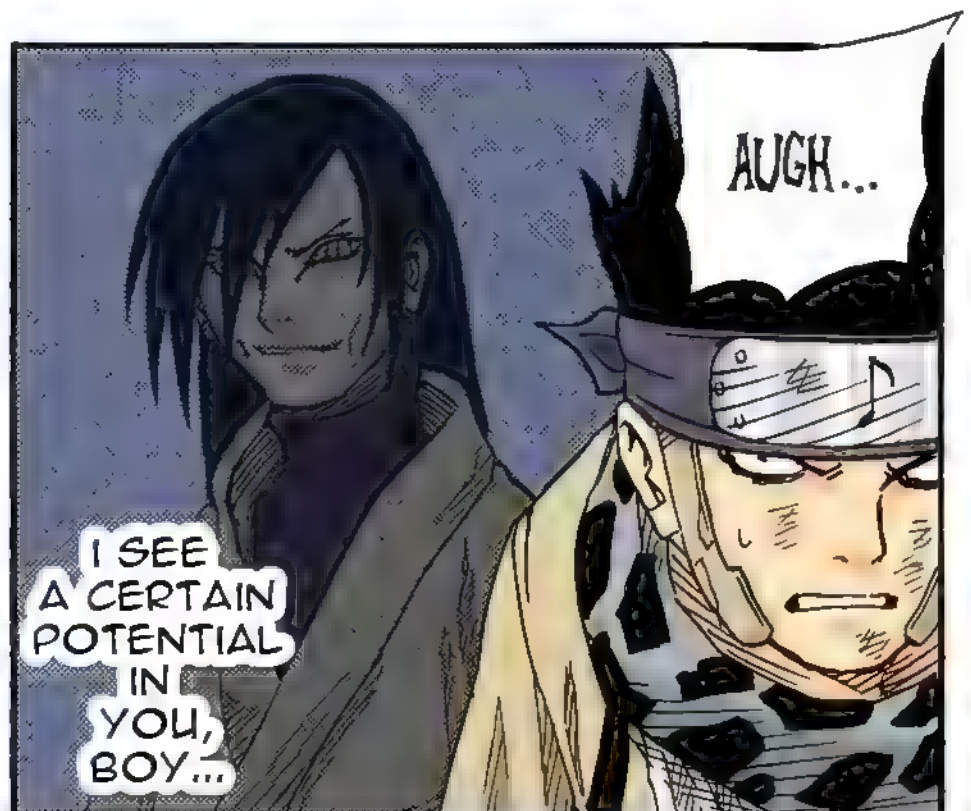
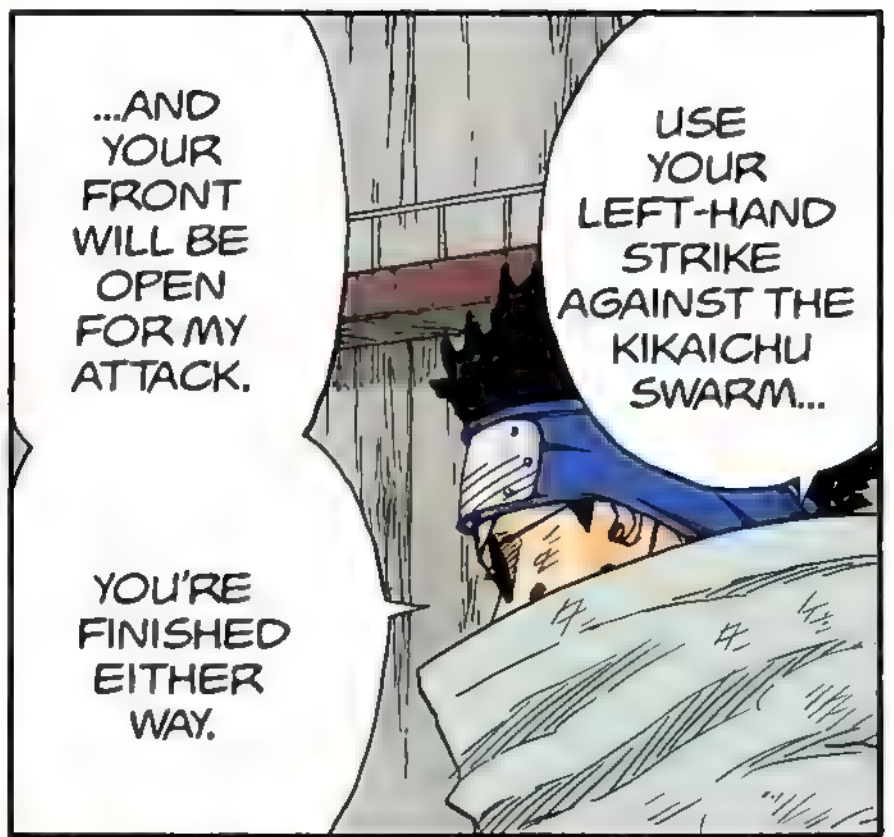
EEK...

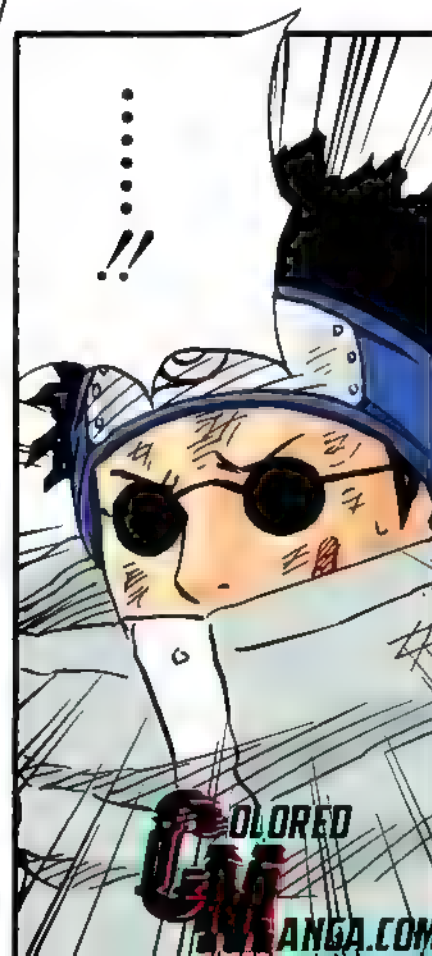
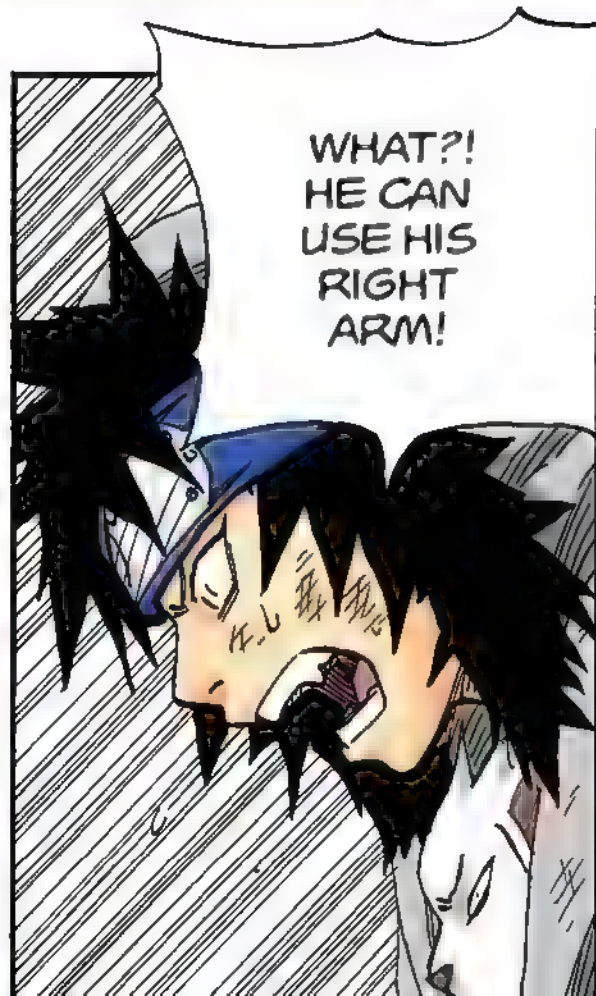
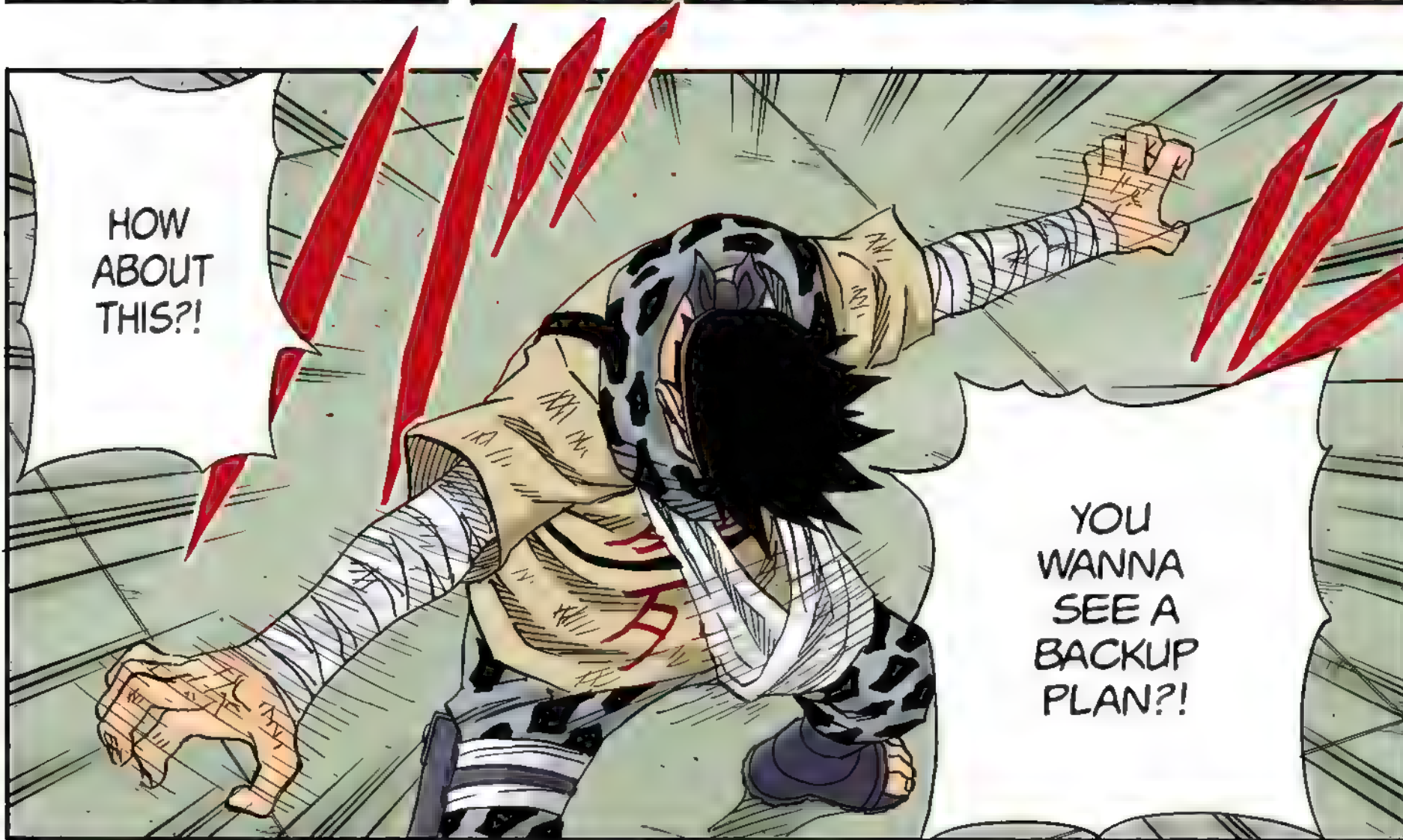
USE YOUR LEFT-HAND STRIKE ON ME AGAIN...

...AND THEY'LL INSTANTLY BE ALL OVER YOUR UN-PROTECTED BACK.

...YOU'D BETTER SURRENDER.

IT'S YOUR ONLY WAY OUT.





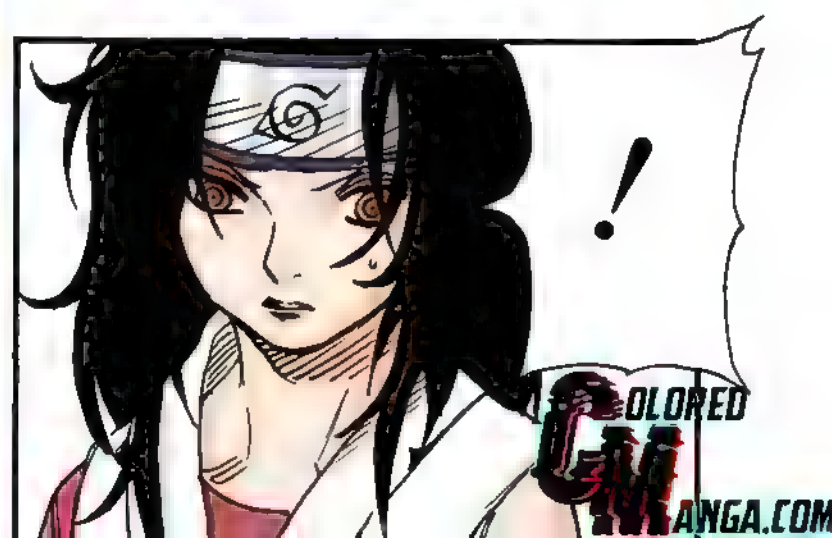
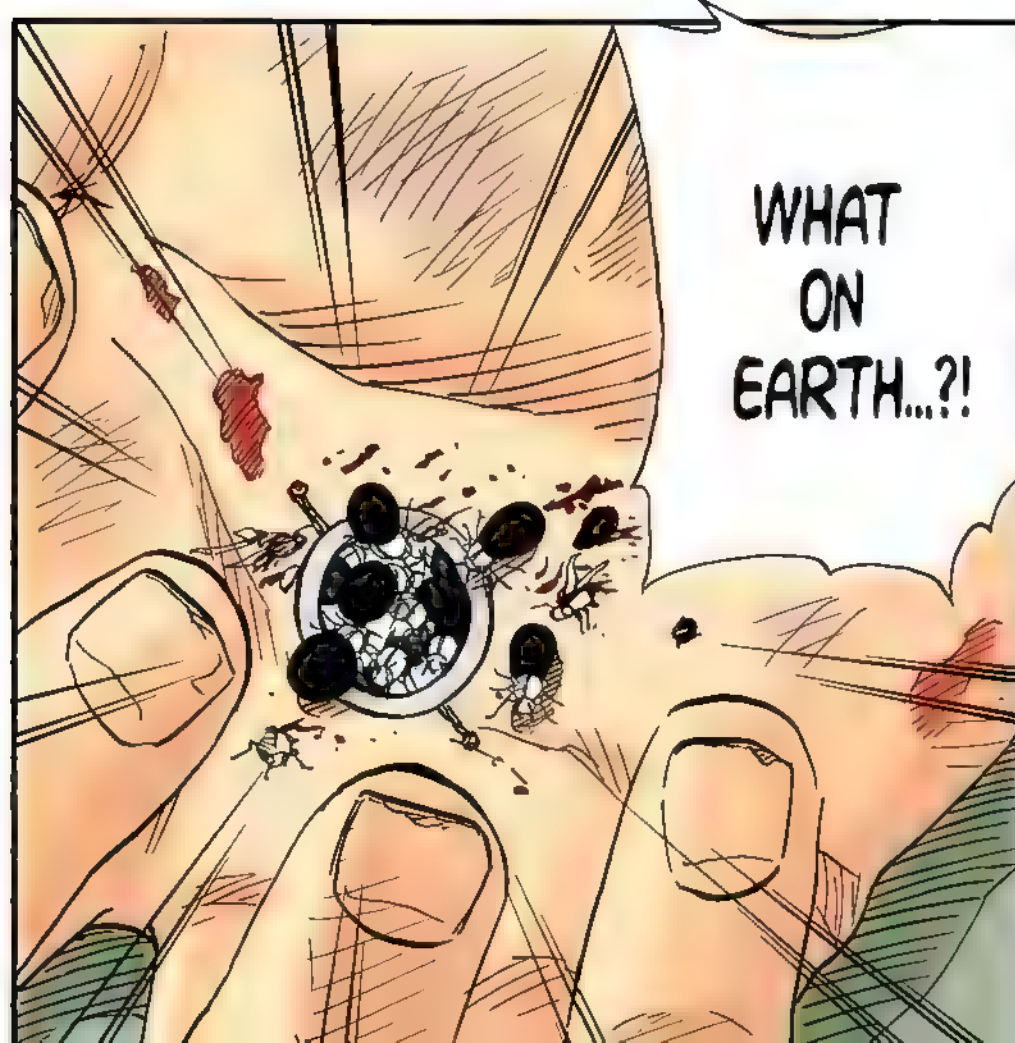
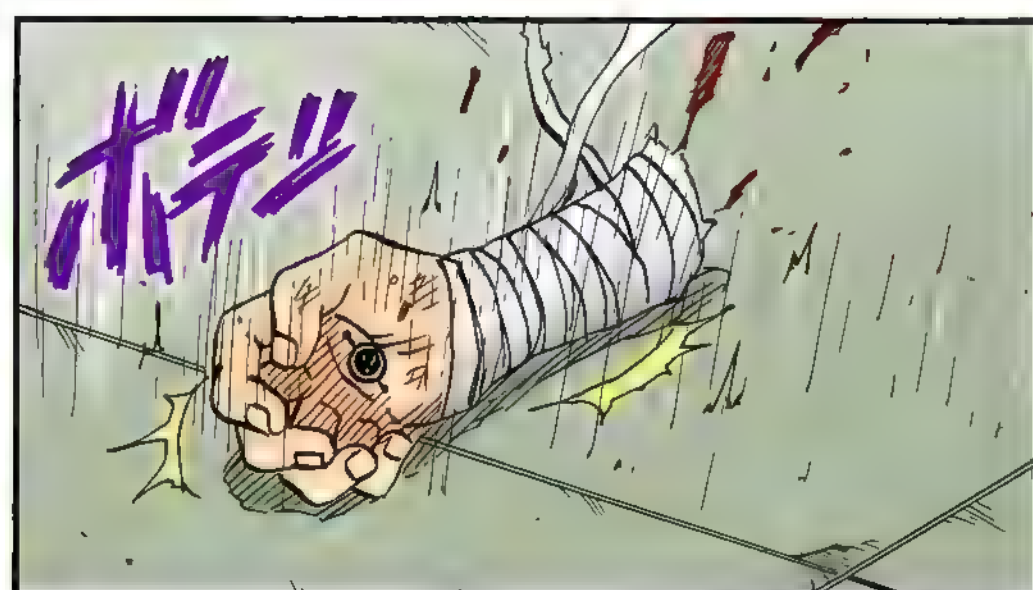
...IS
ONE
OF
YOUR
PAWNS?

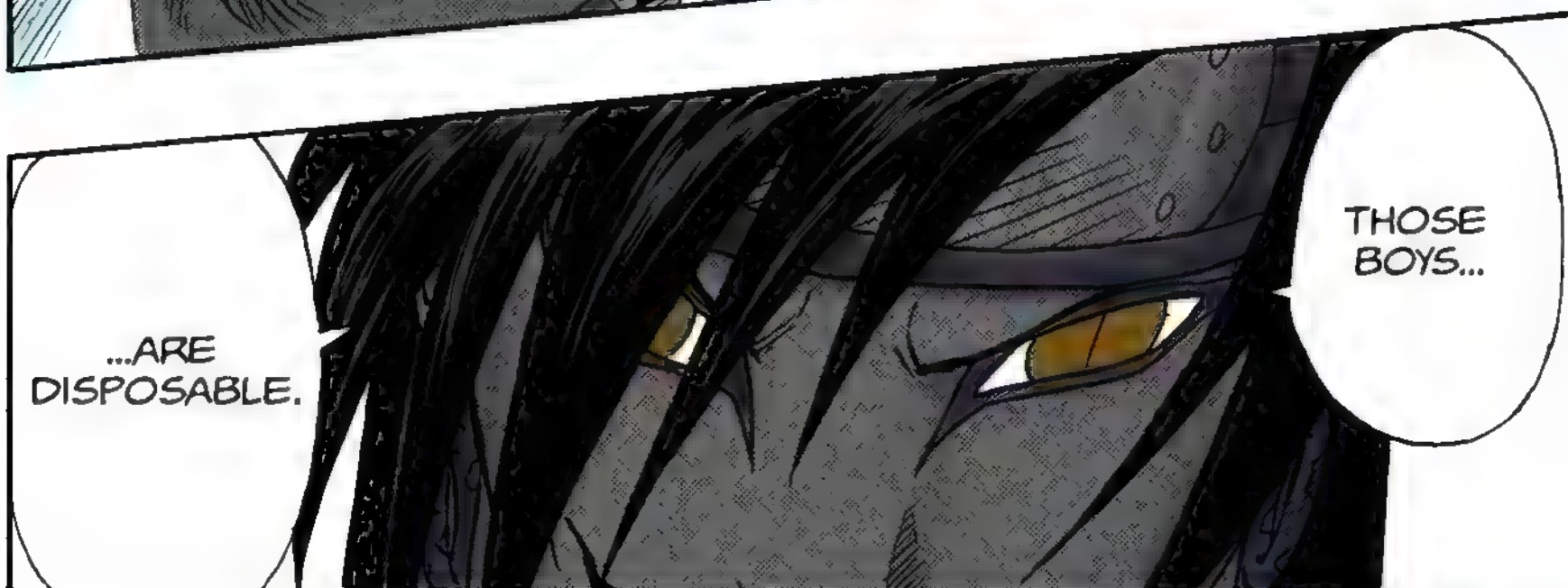
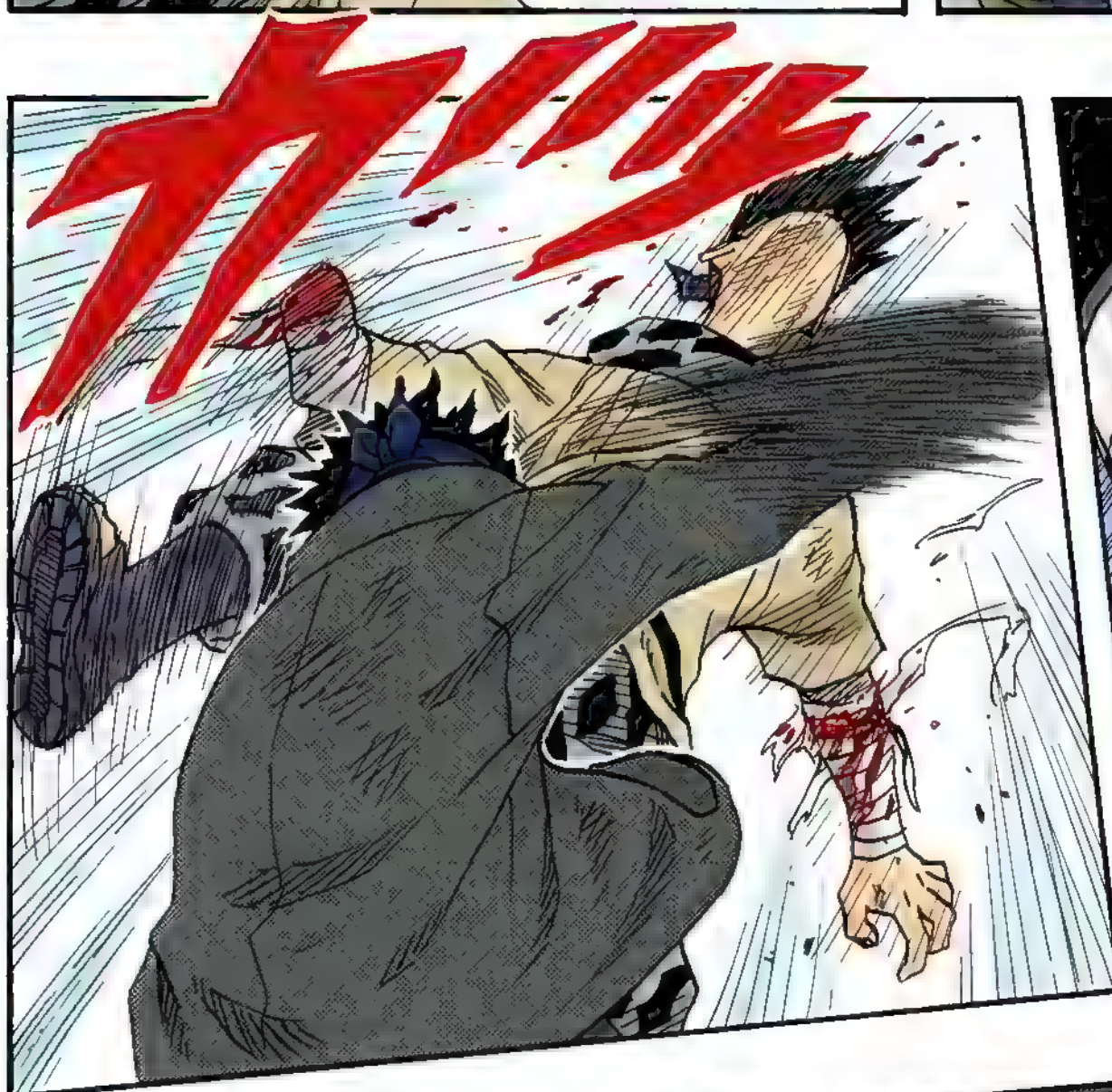
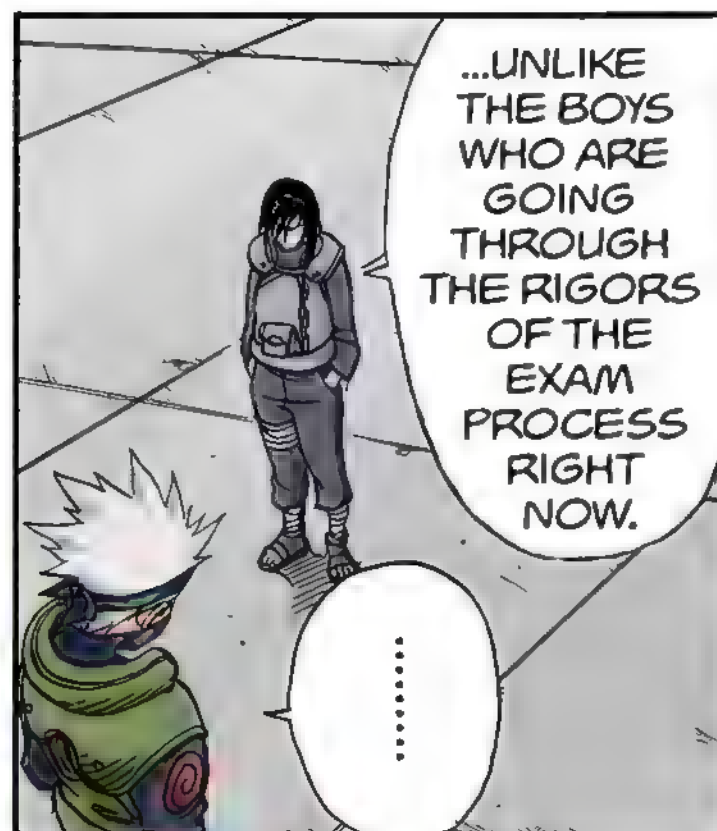
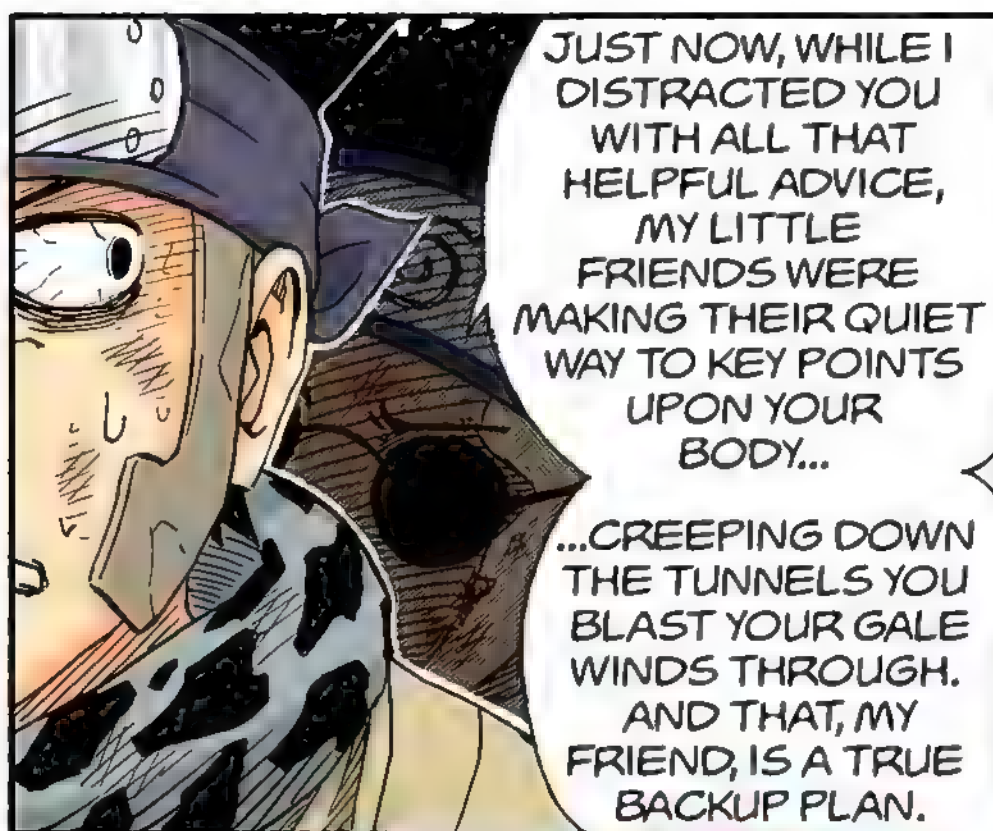
SO,
YOU
THINK
THAT
SASUKE...

TAKE
THIS!!

...A
REAL
KEEPER...

OH,
HE'S A
VERY
SPECIAL
PAWN...





STAY
AWAY
FROM
SASUKE.

TAK

SKF

...THE MAN
I AM
TODAY
CAN TAKE
YOU
DOWN!

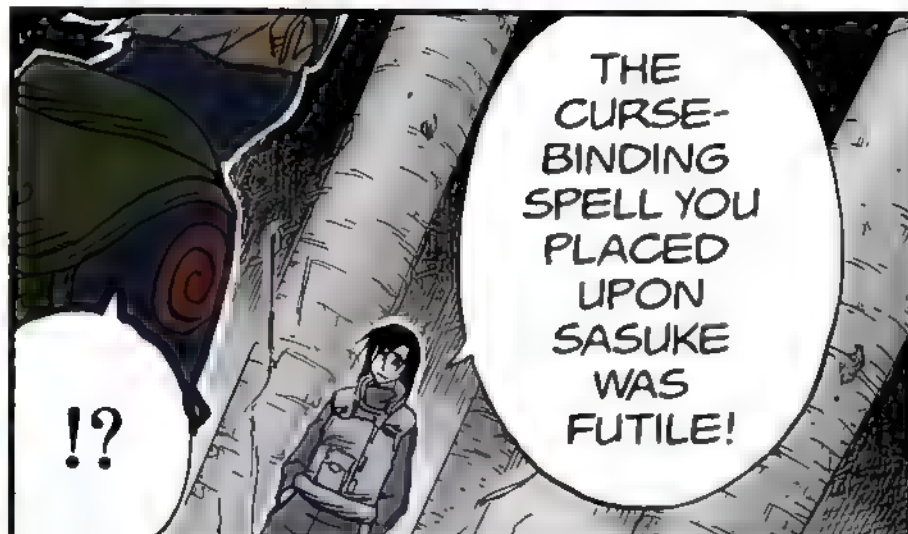
EVEN IF
YOU ARE
ONE OF
THOSE
THREE
NINJA...

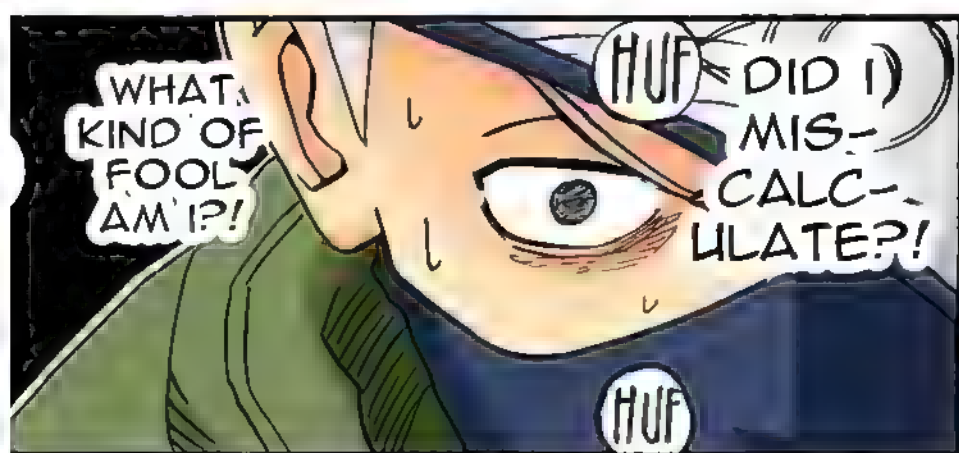
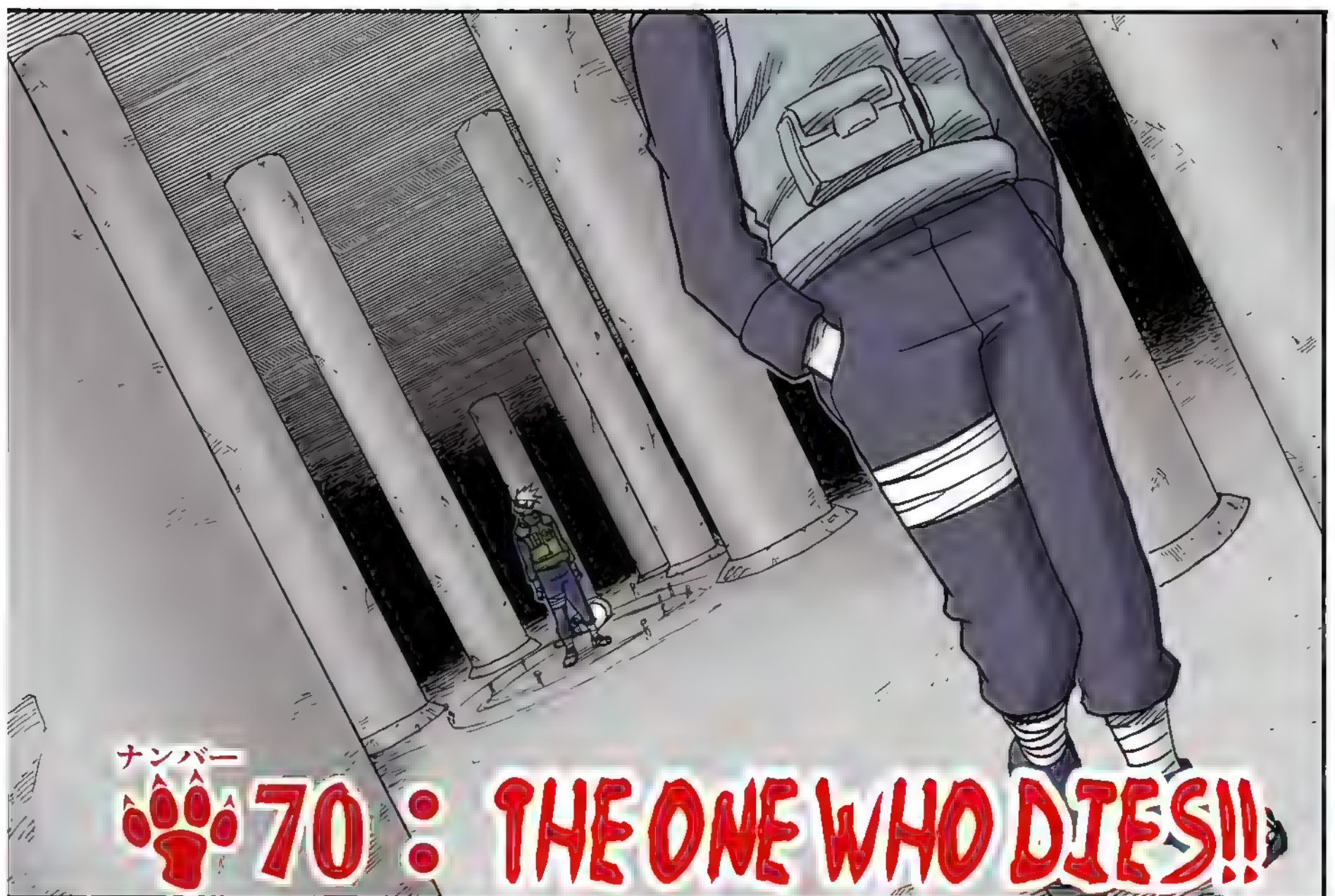
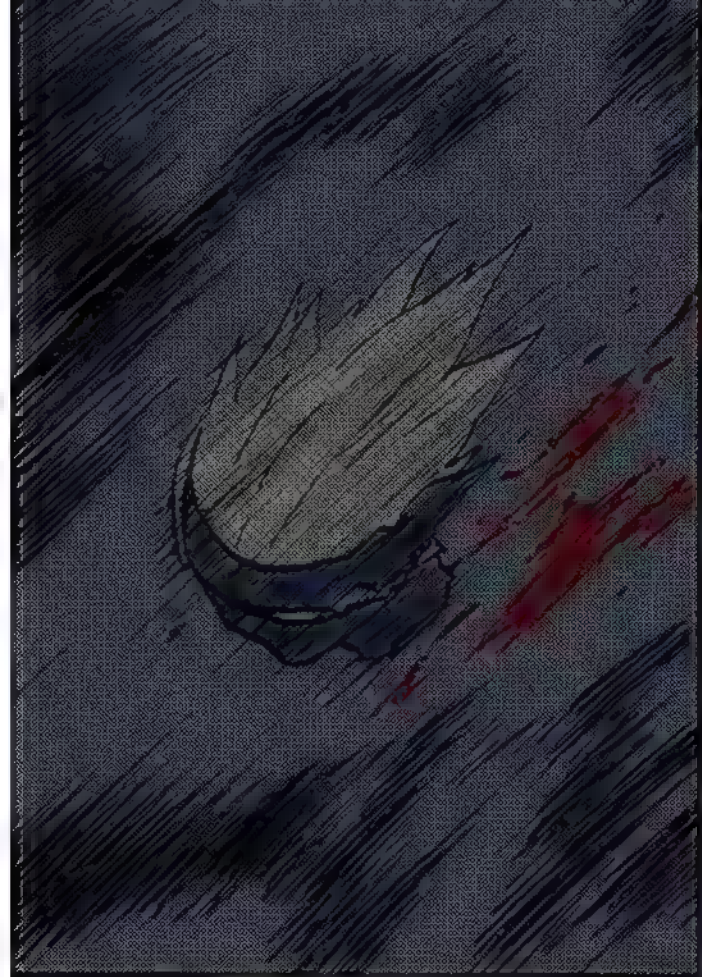
WHAT'S
SO
FUNNY?

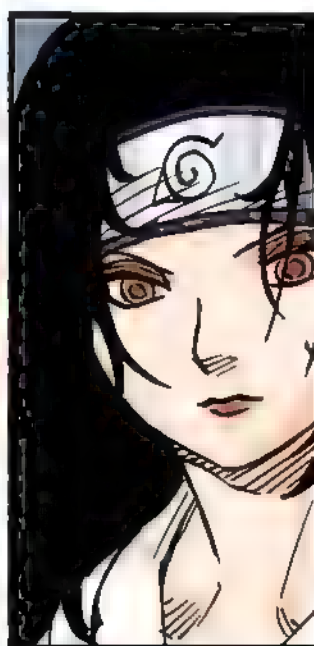
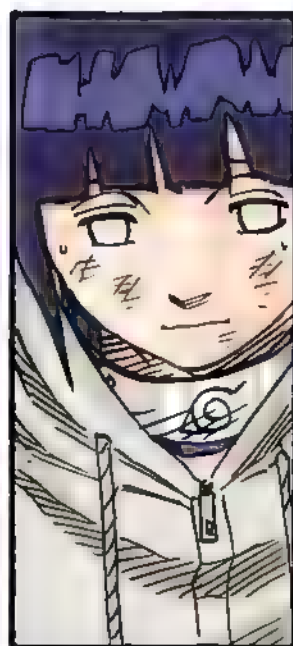
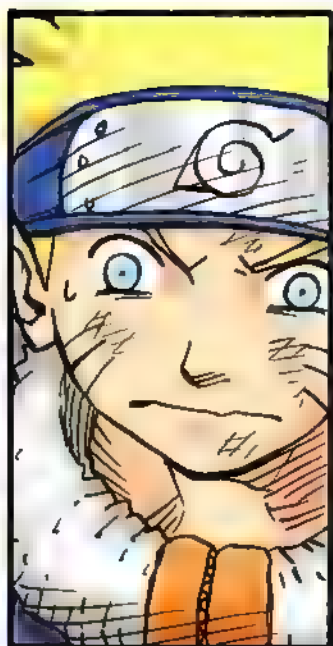
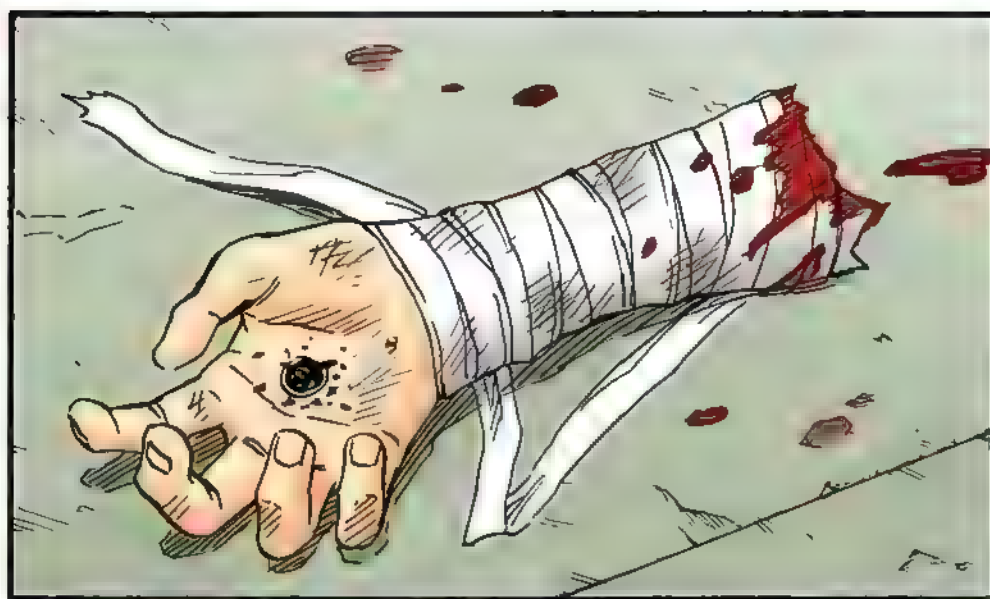
HA
HA
HA HA
HA!

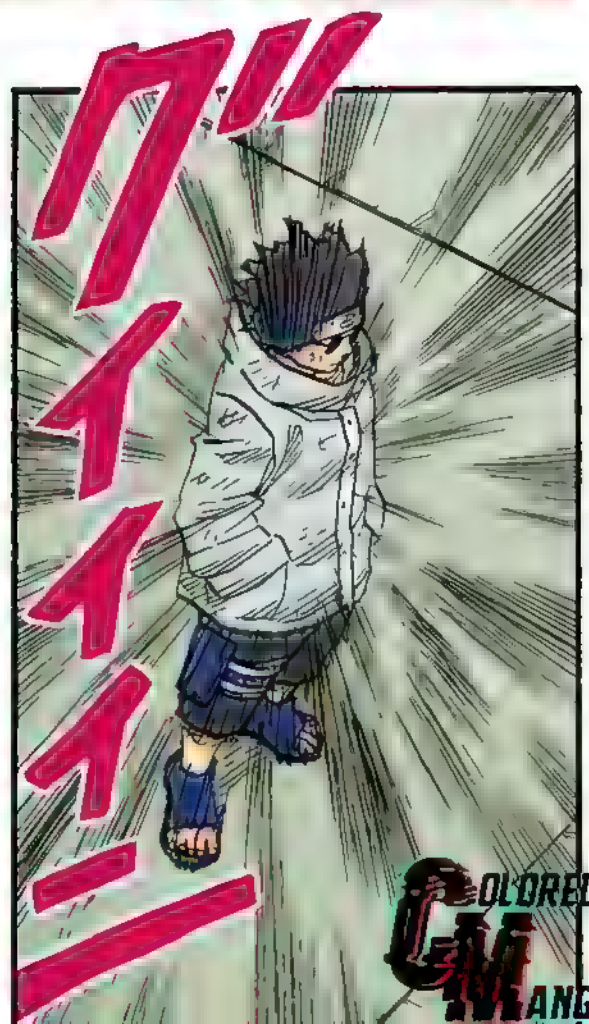
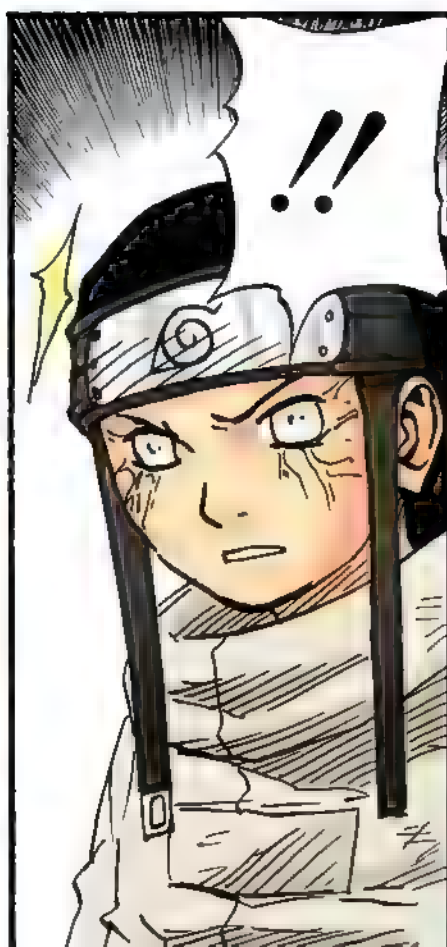
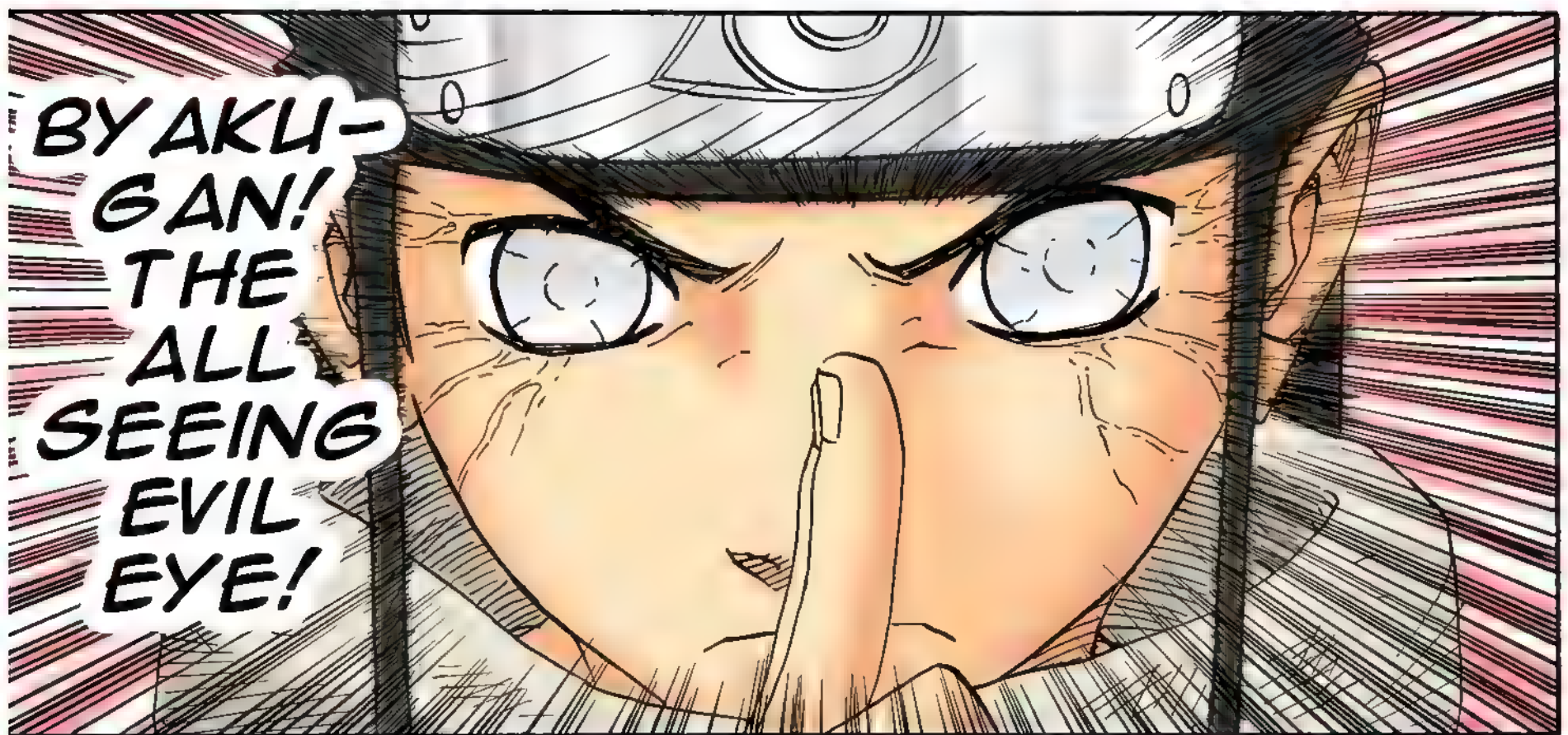
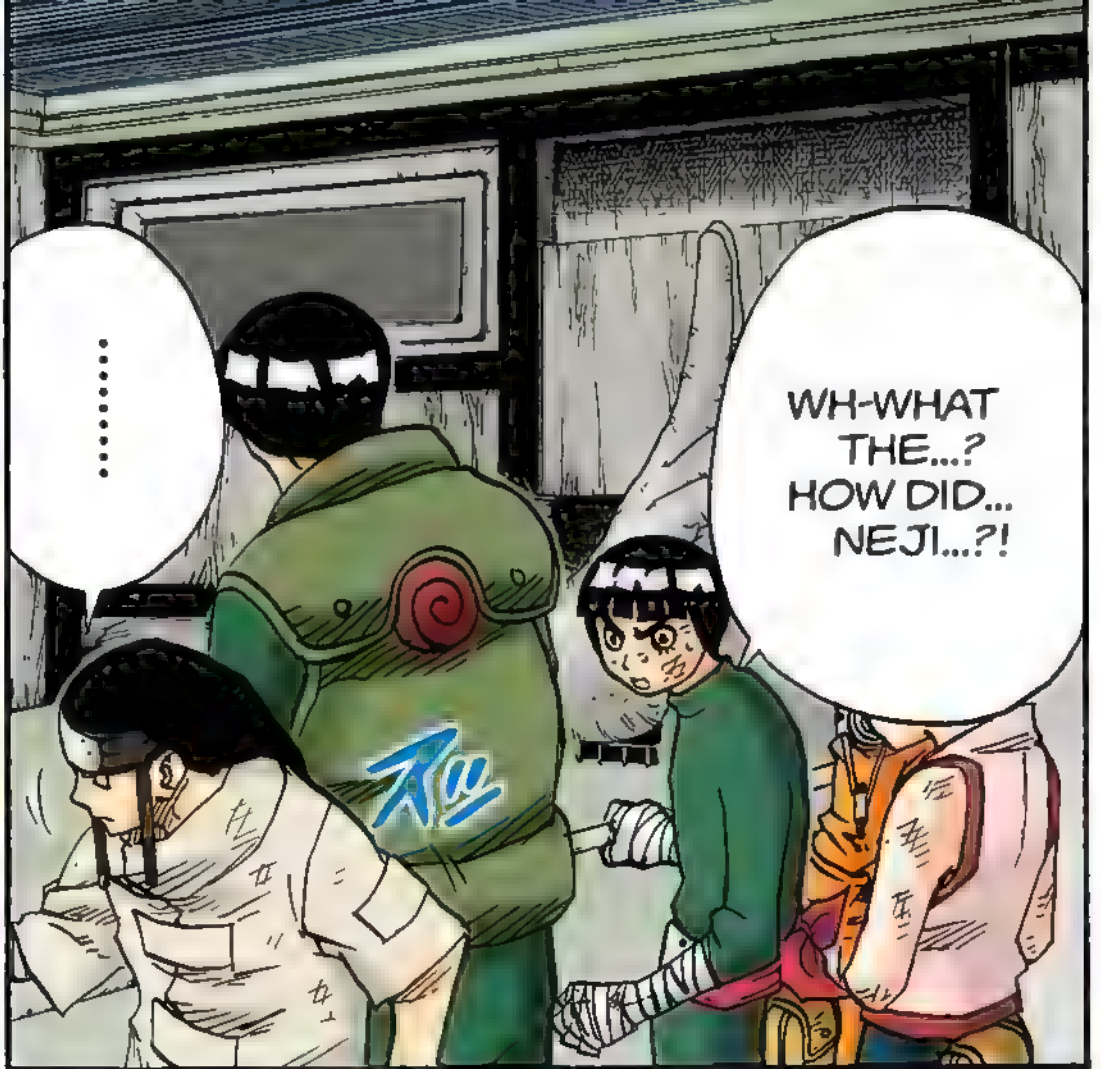
HEH
HEH...

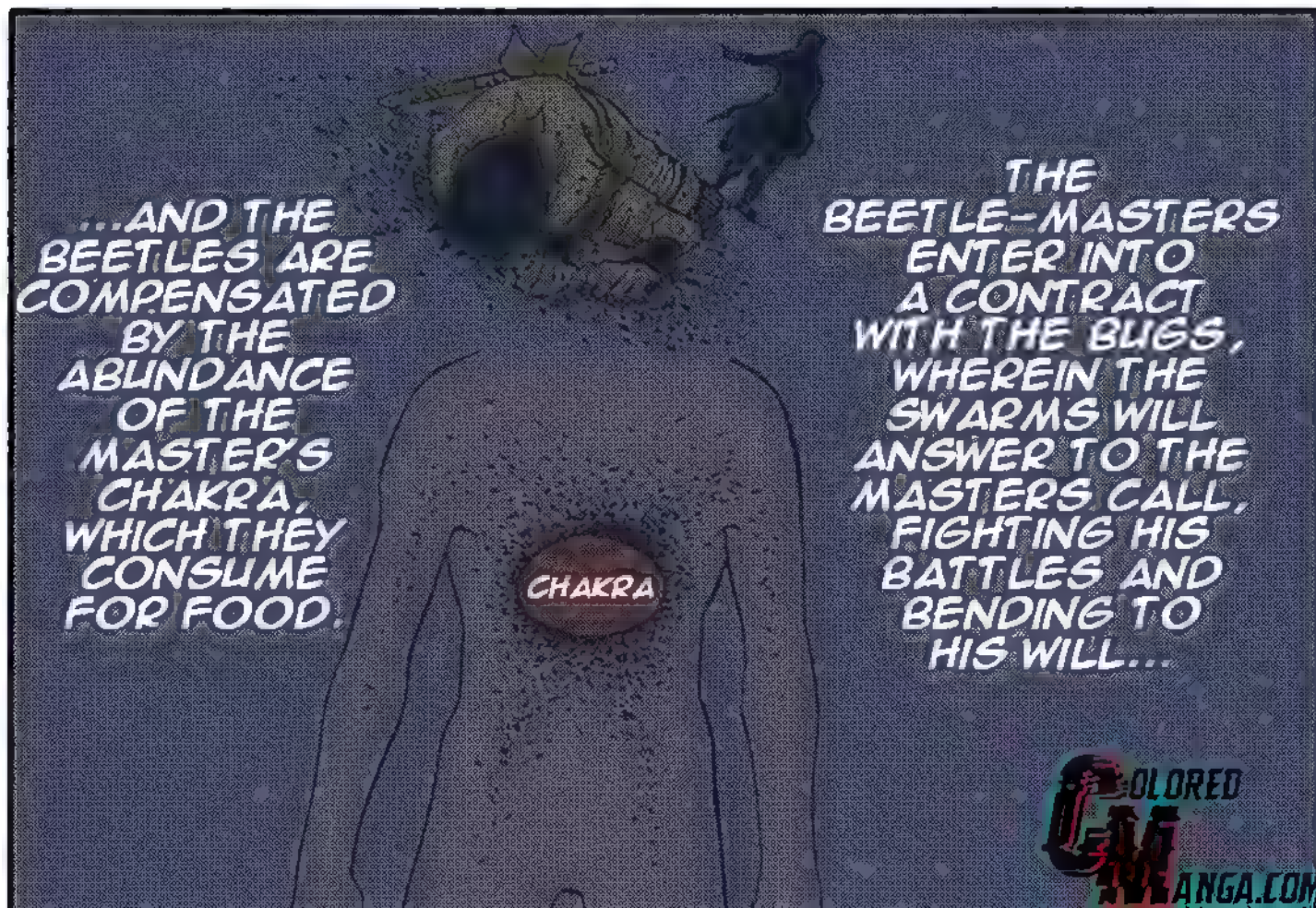
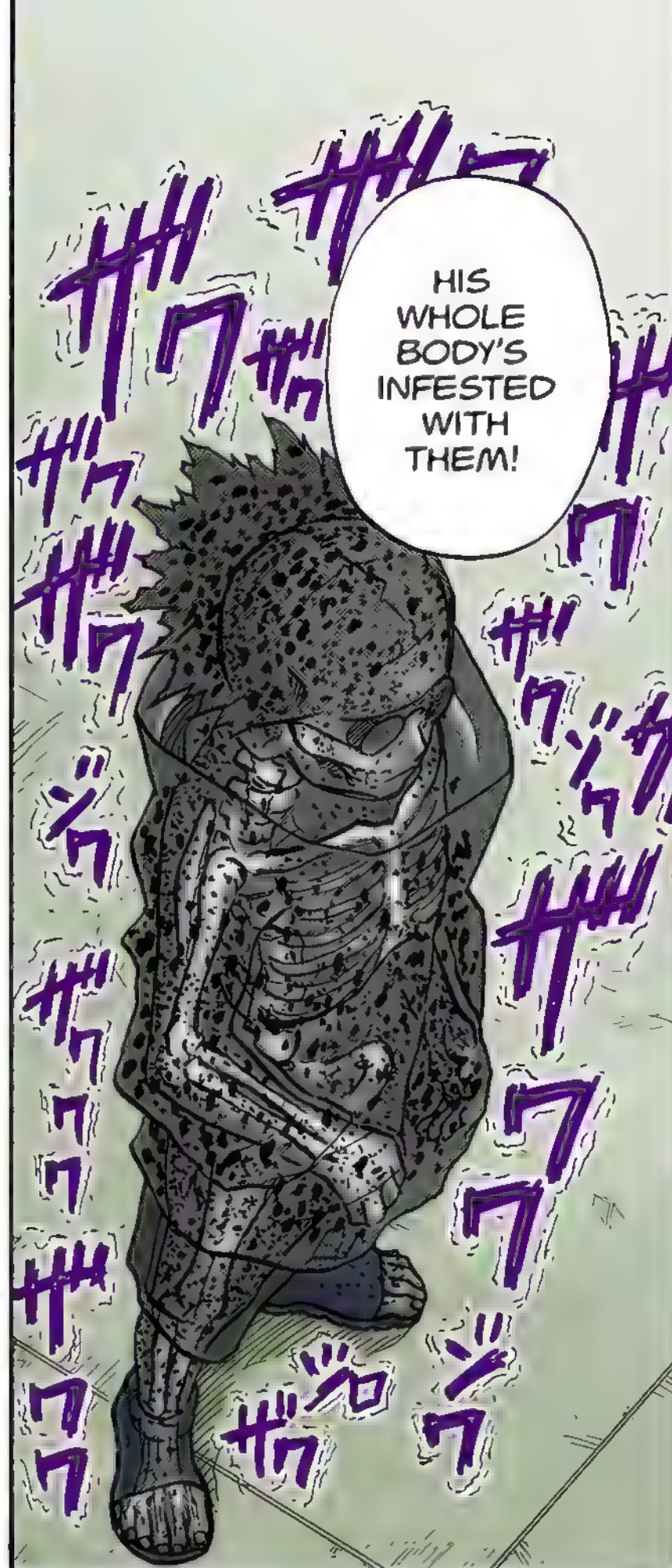
HEH...

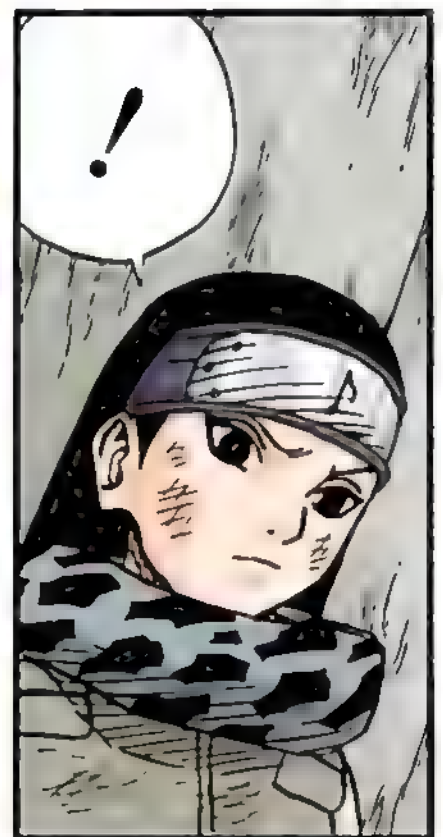
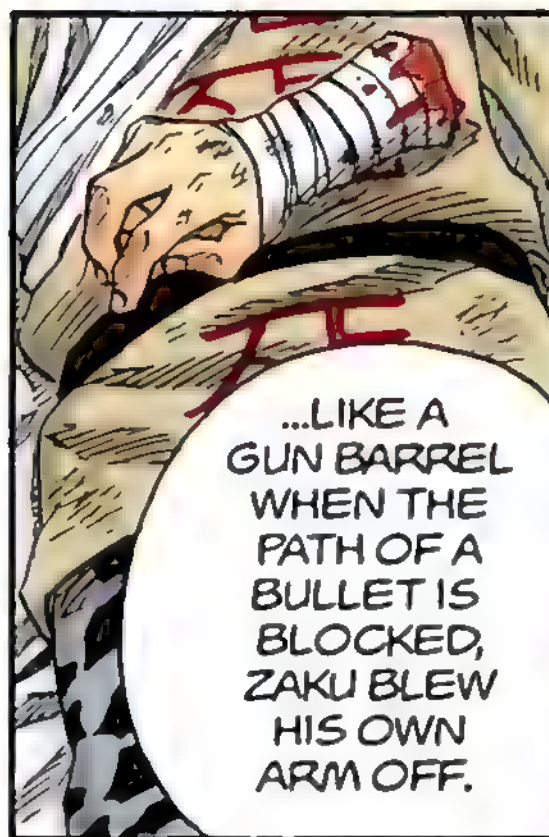
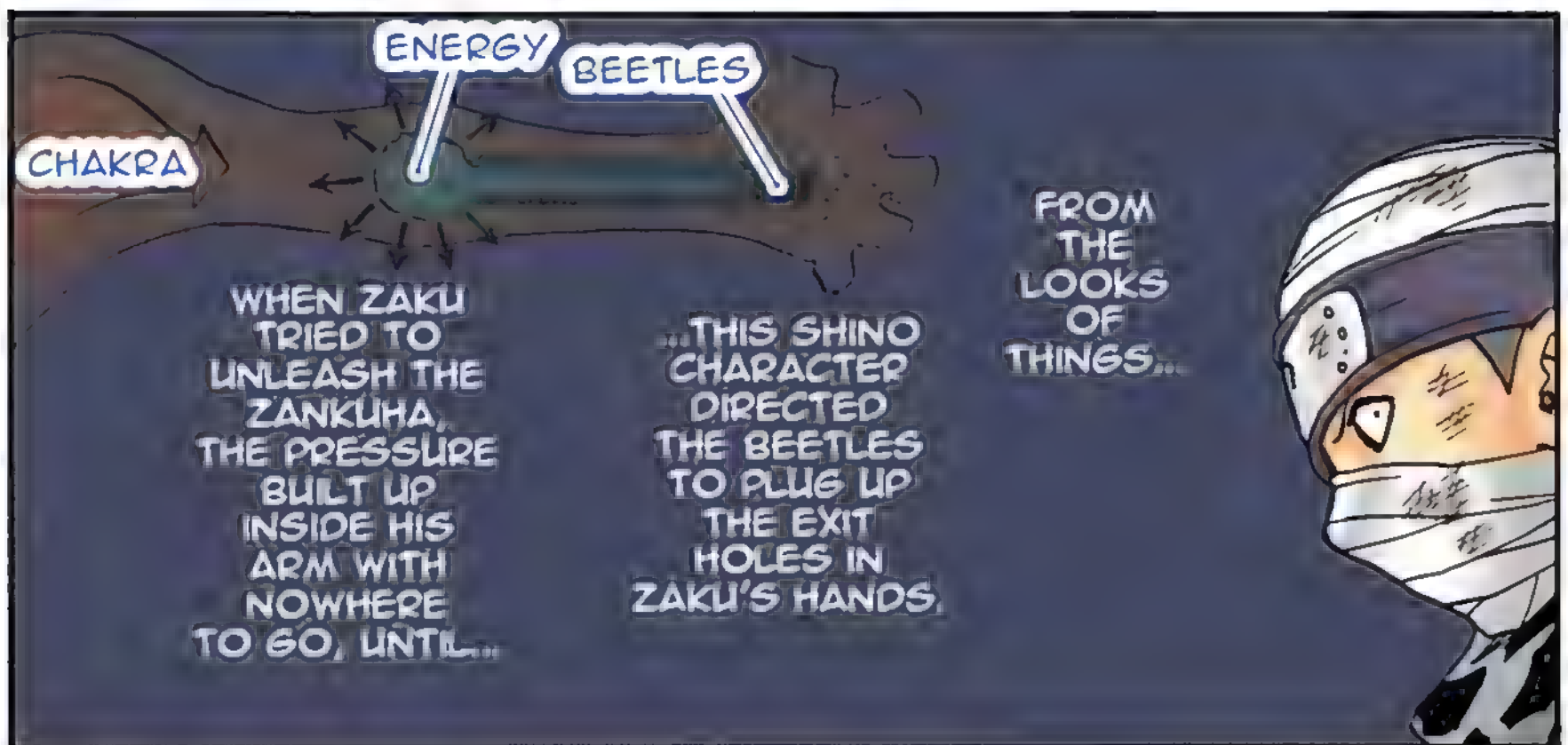
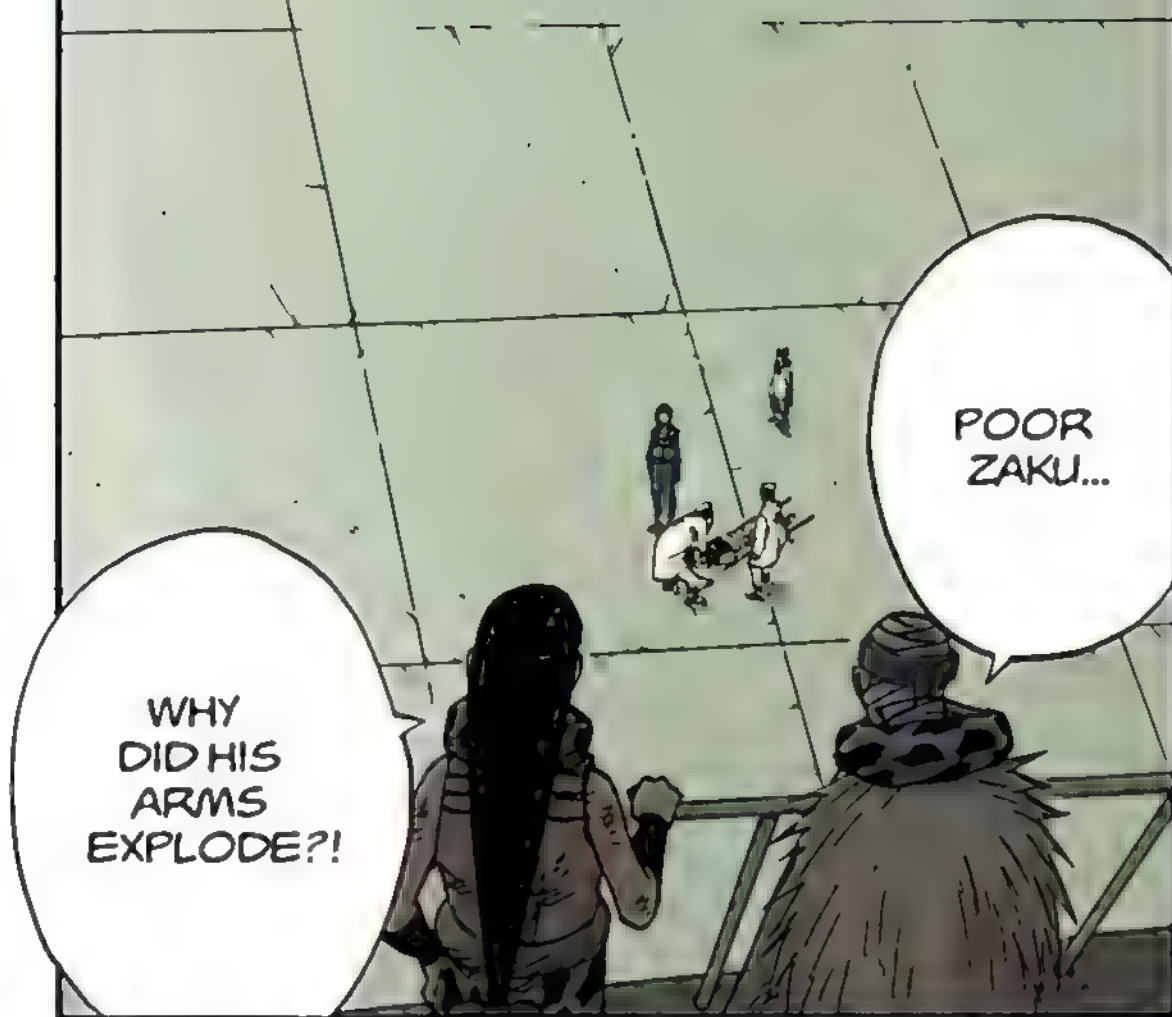


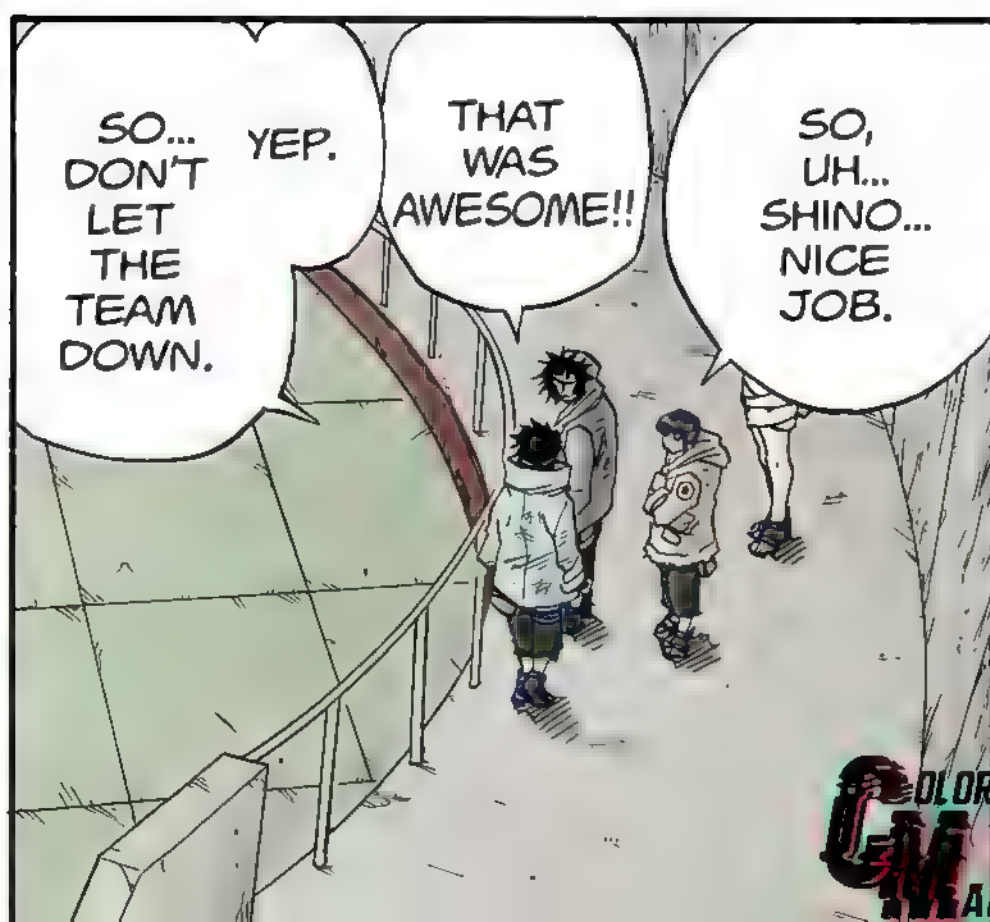
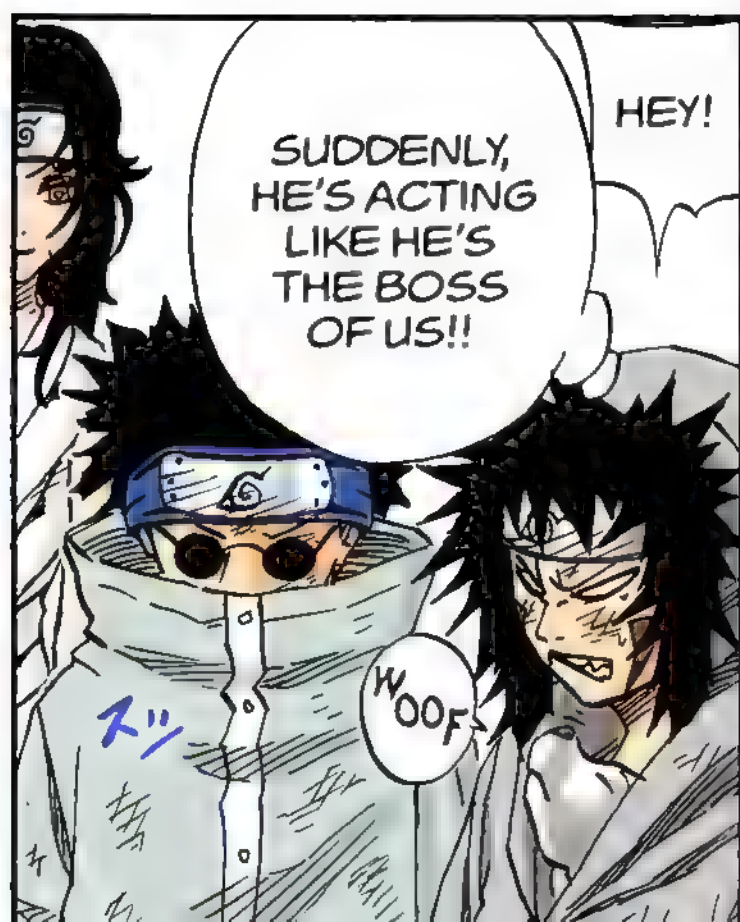
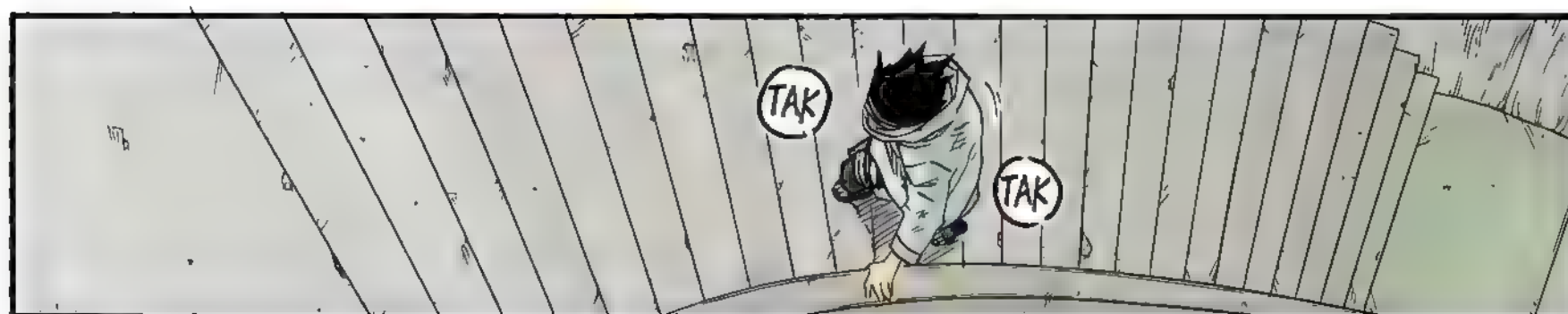
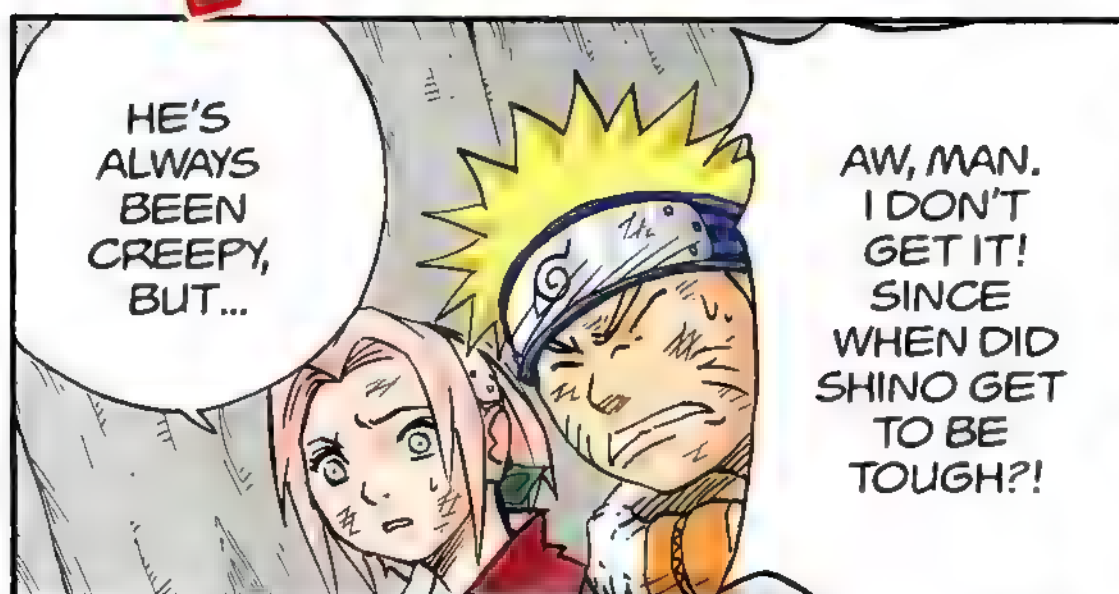
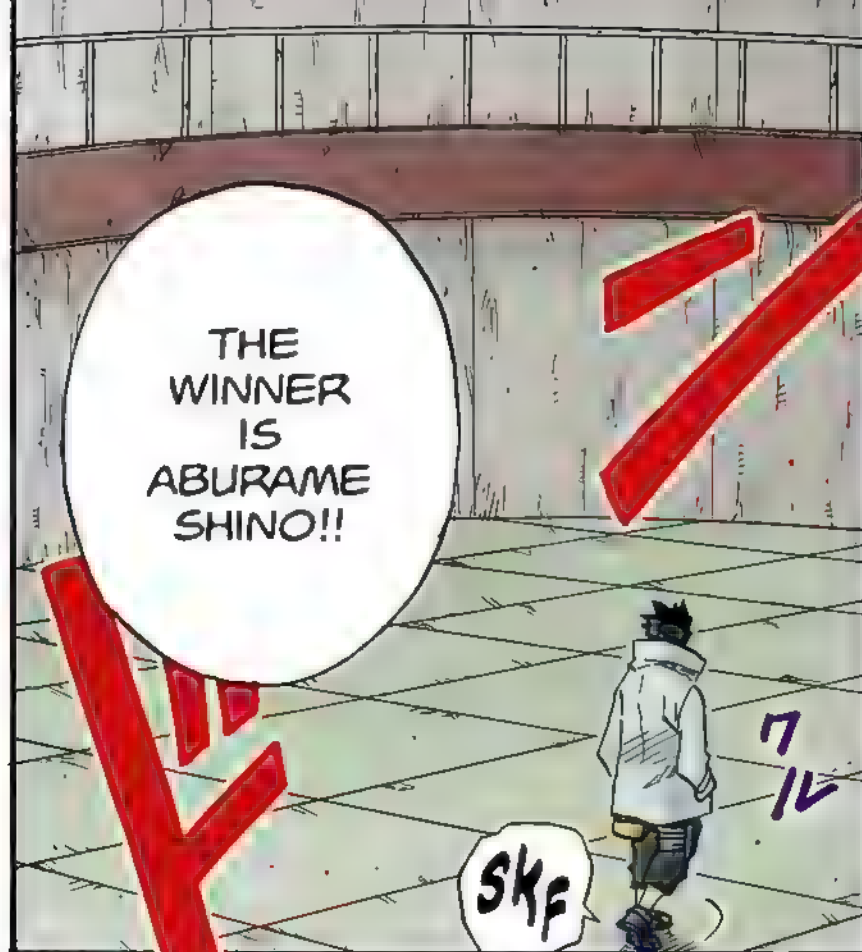


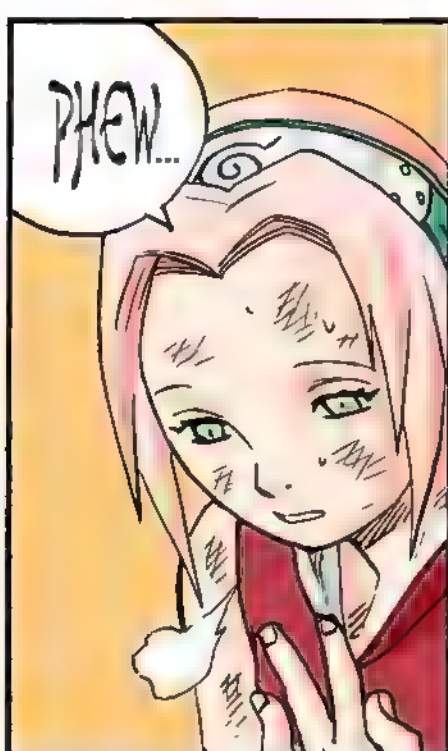
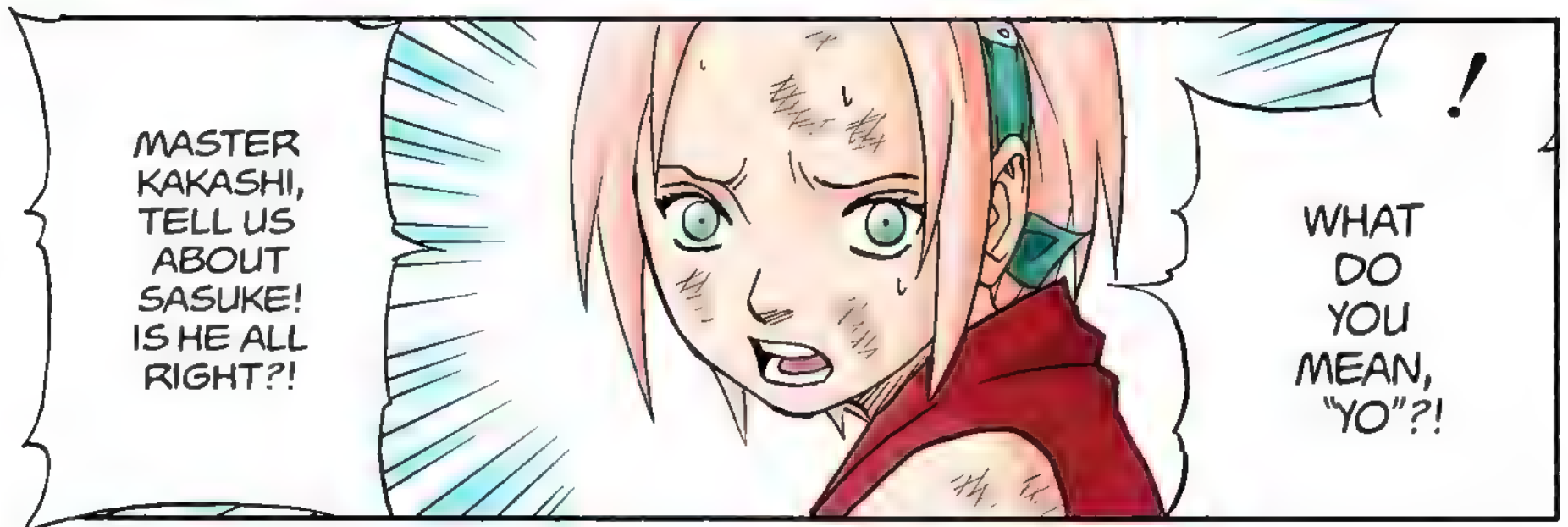
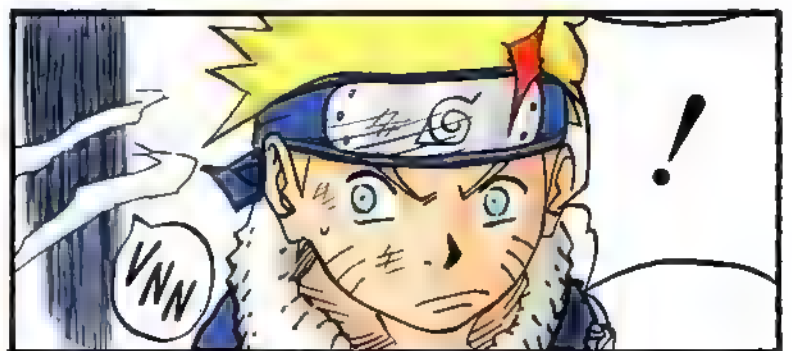
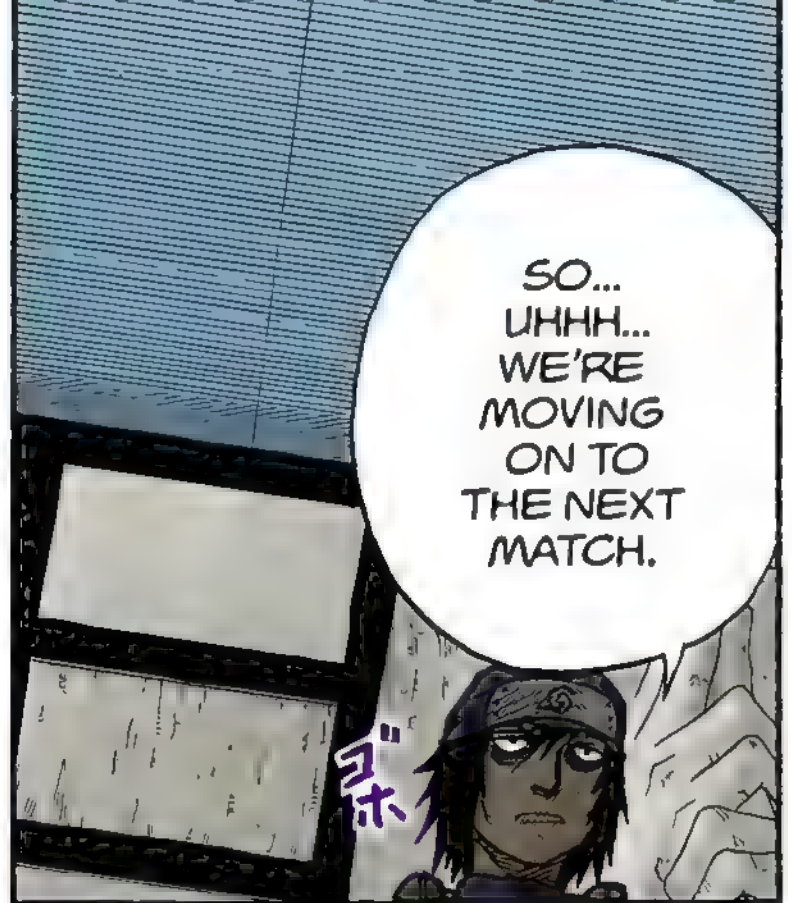


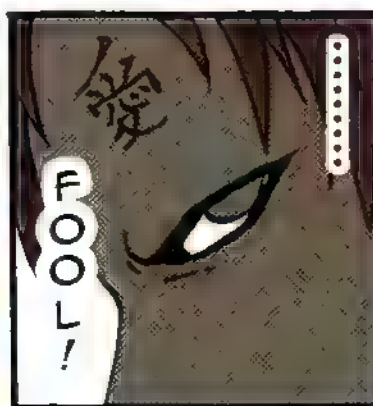
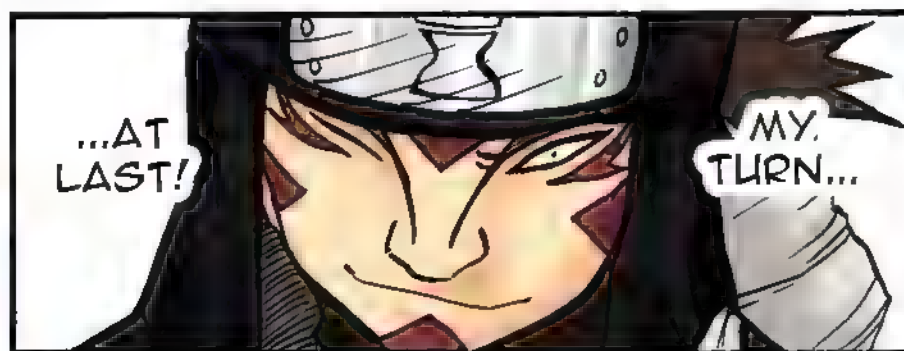
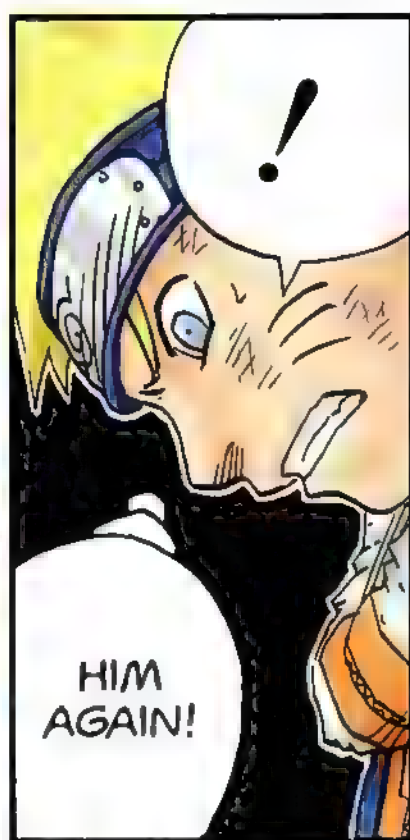
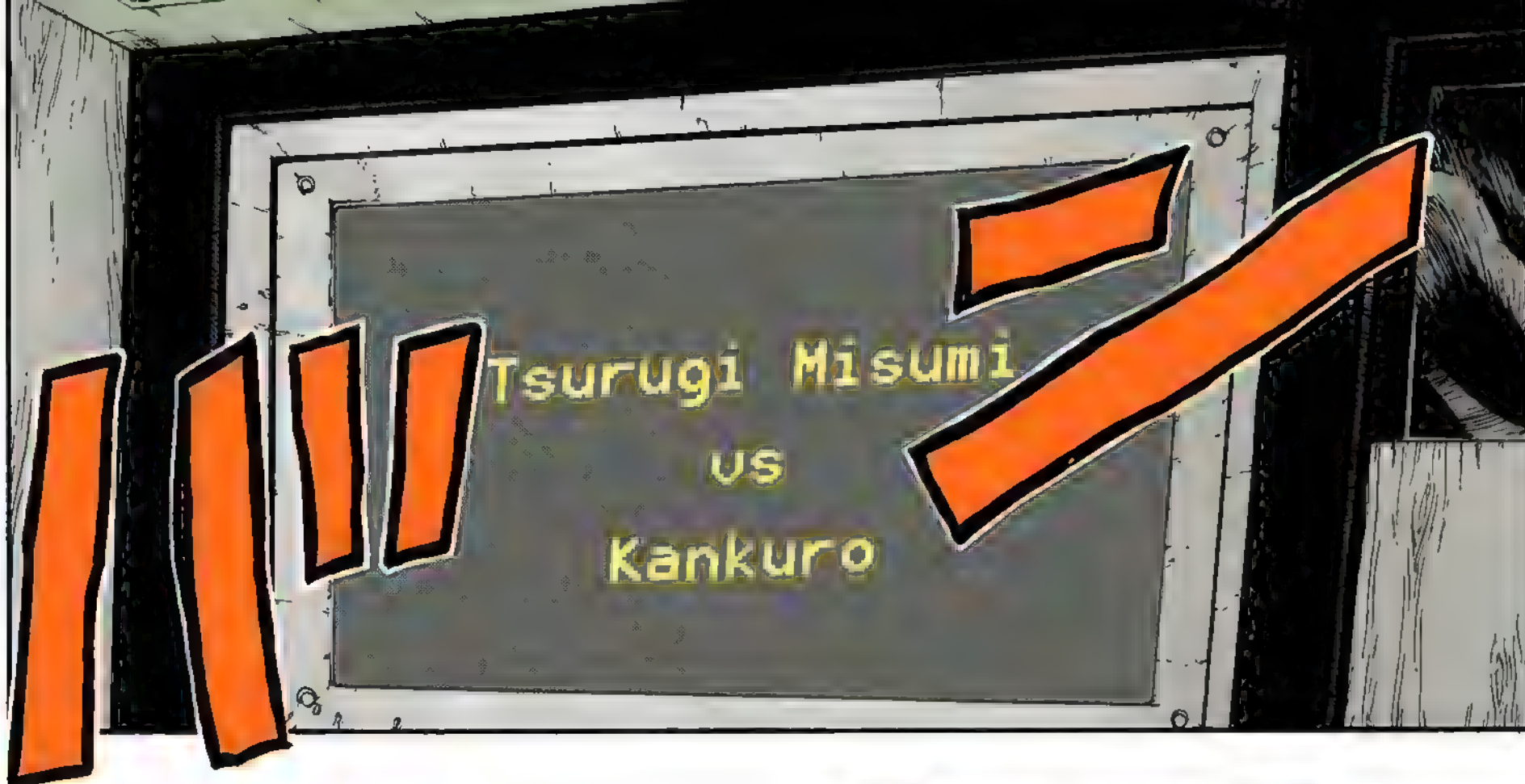


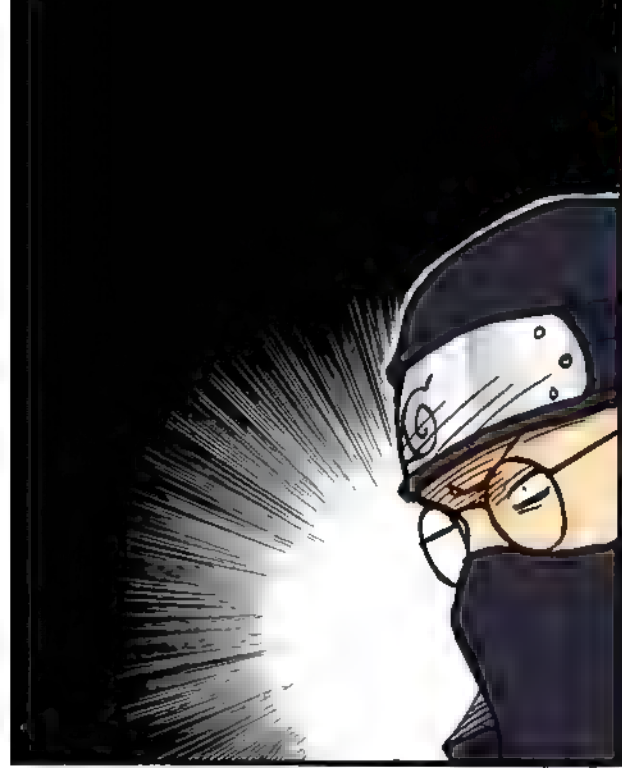








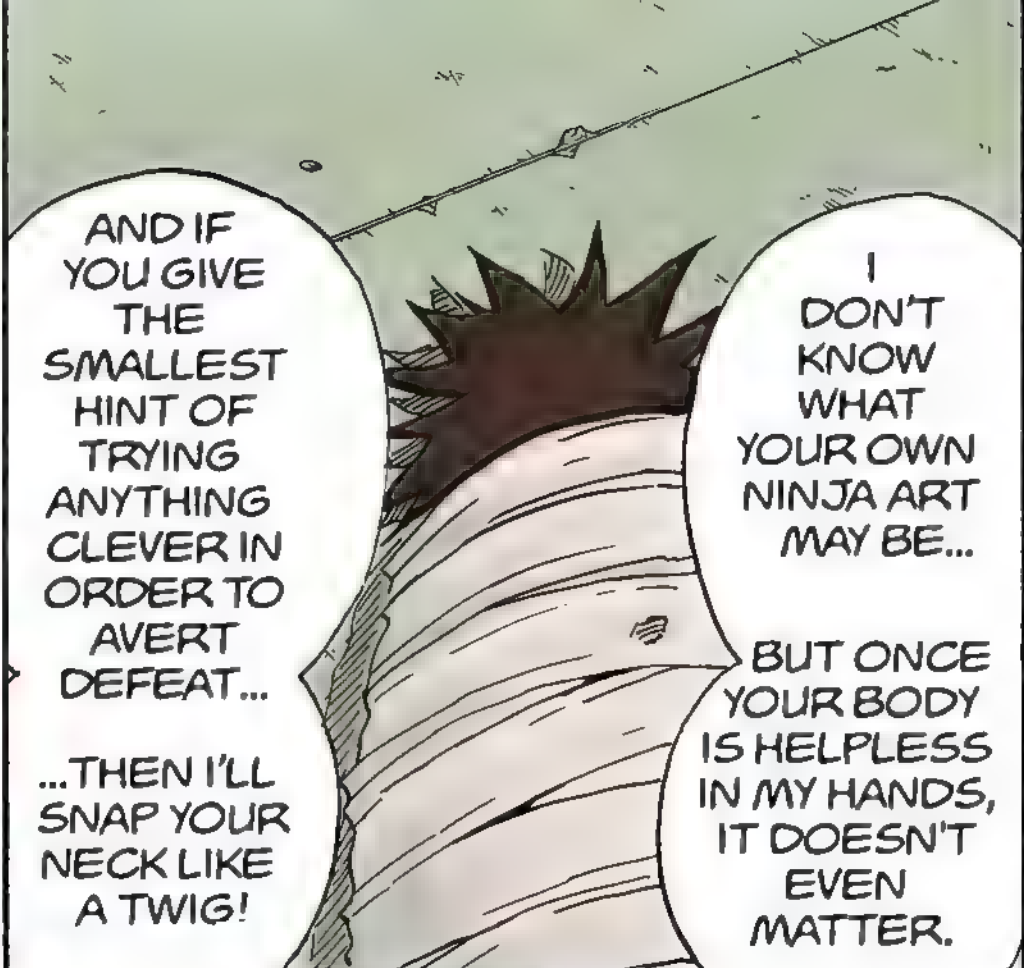








YOU'RE
RUNNING
OUT OF
TIME...



AND IF
YOU GIVE
THE
SMALLEST
HINT OF
TRYING
ANYTHING
CLEVER IN
ORDER TO
AVERT
DEFEAT...

...THEN I'LL
SNAP YOUR
NECK LIKE
A TWIG!

I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOUR OWN
NINJA ART
MAY BE...

BUT ONCE
YOUR BODY
IS HELPLESS
IN MY HANDS,
IT DOESN'T
EVEN
MATTER.



NO
WAY...

HEH...

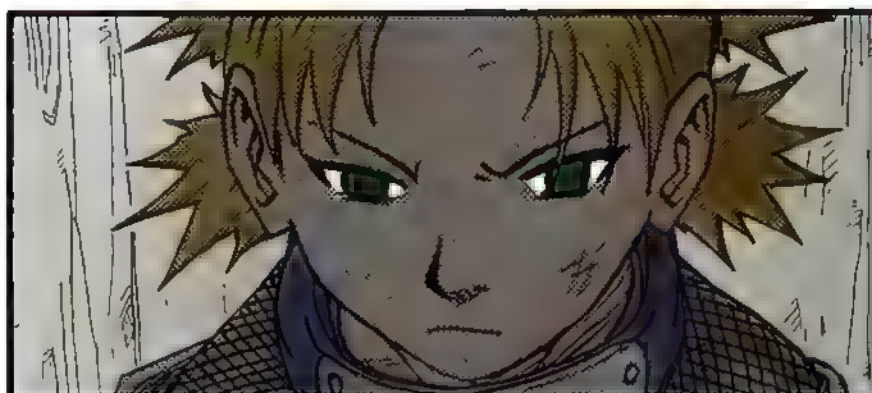
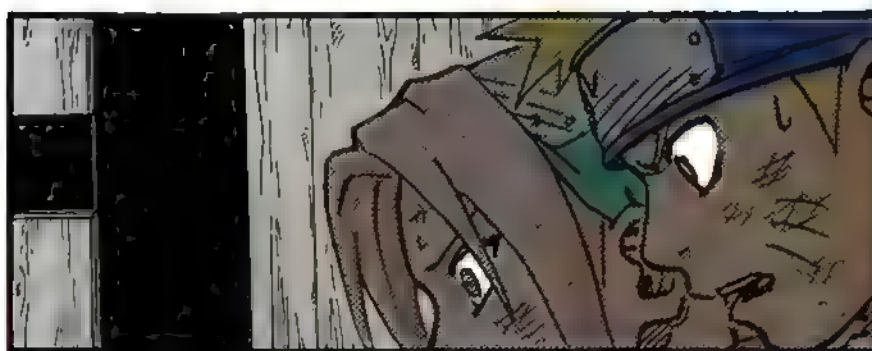
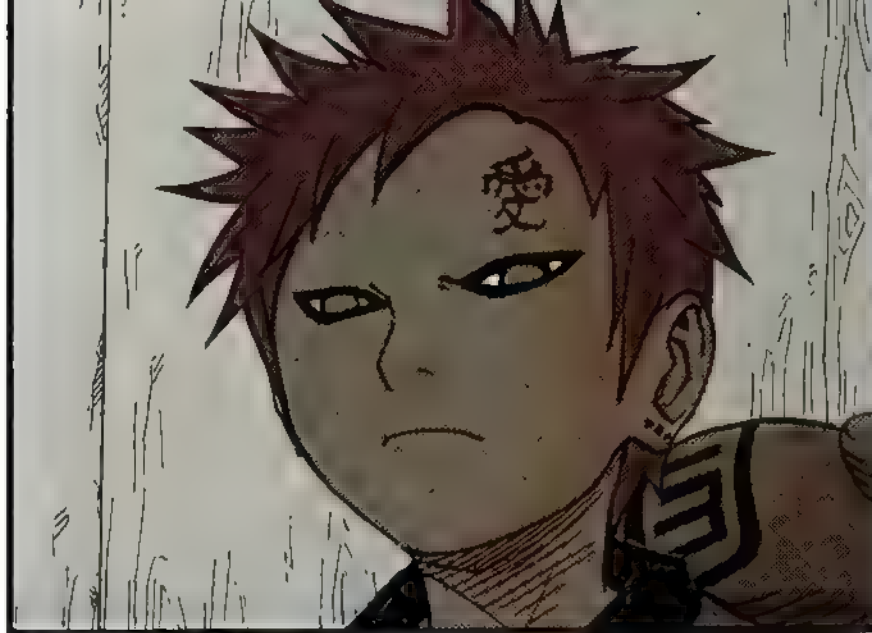


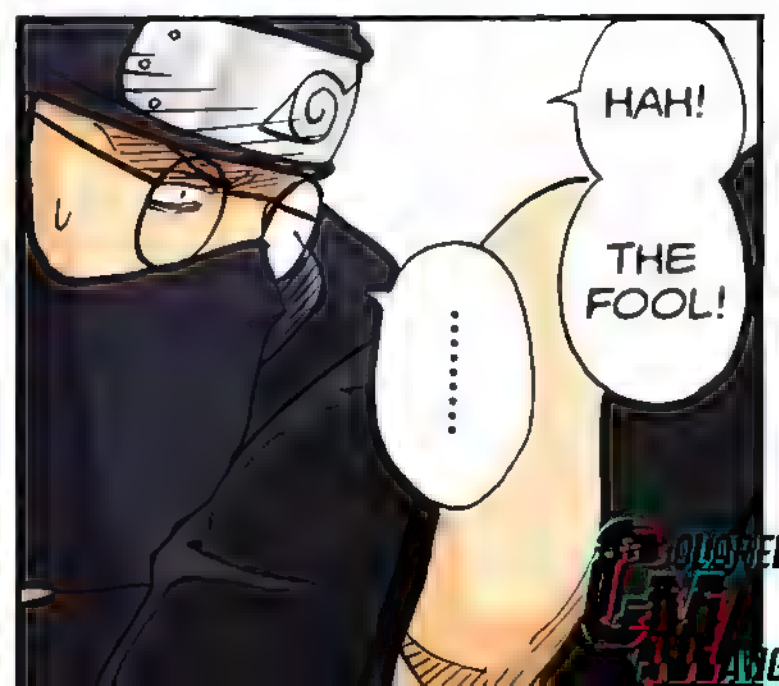
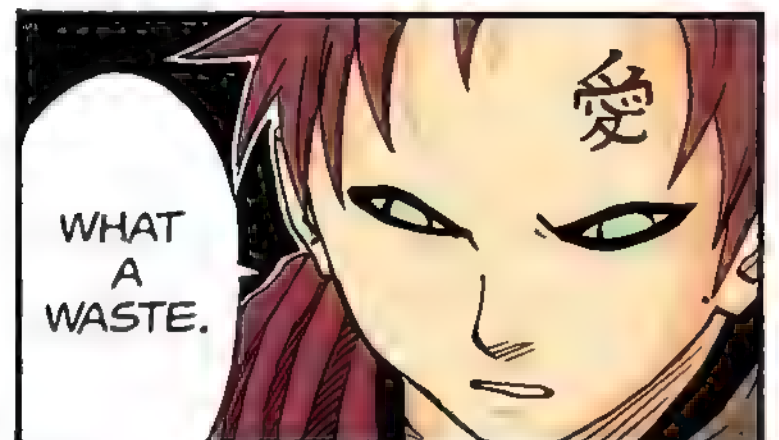
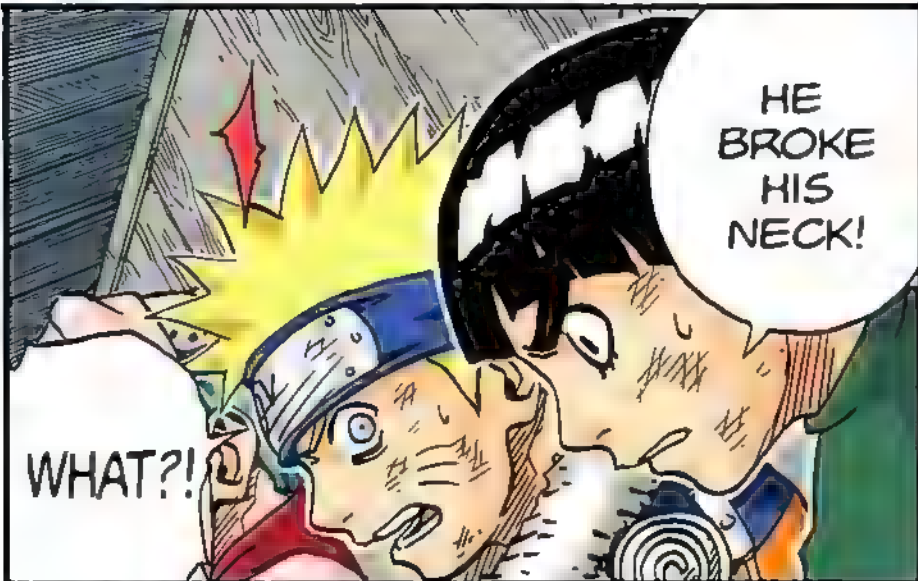
DO YOU?
YOU'RE
ABOUT
TO GET
YOUR
WISH!

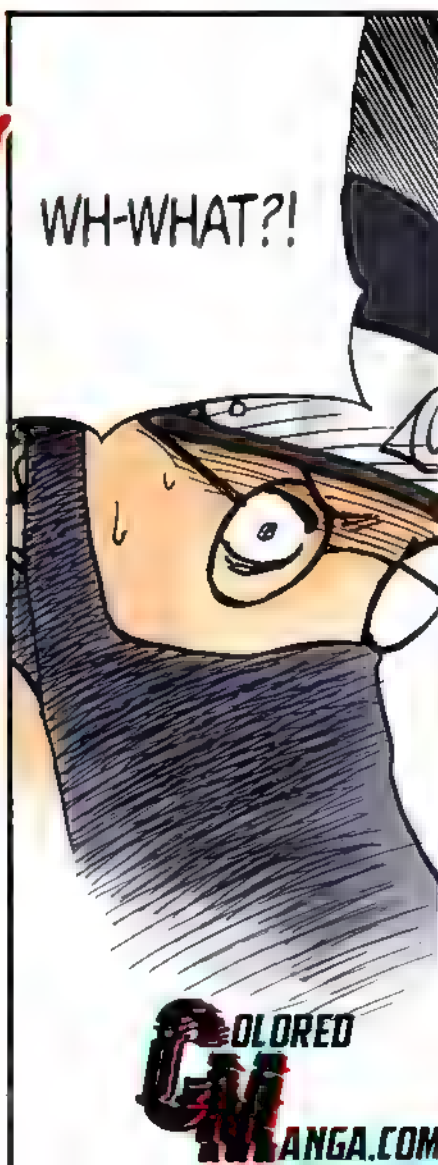
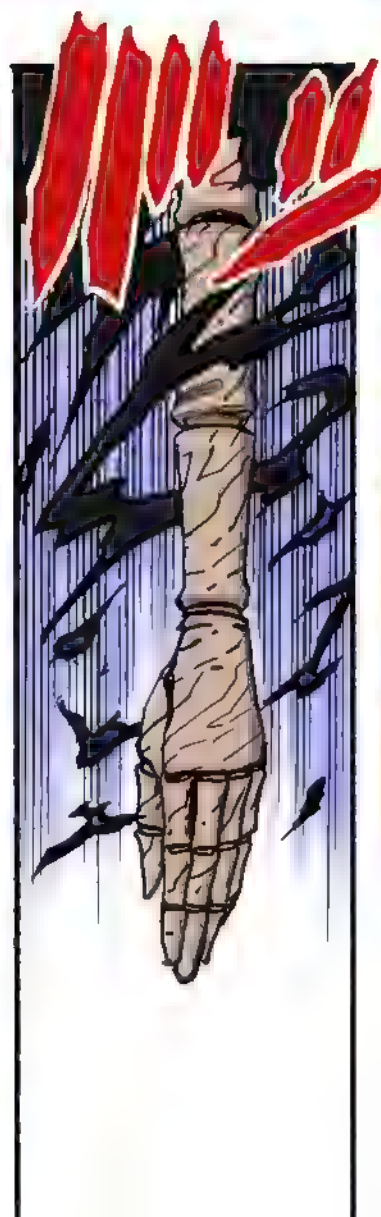


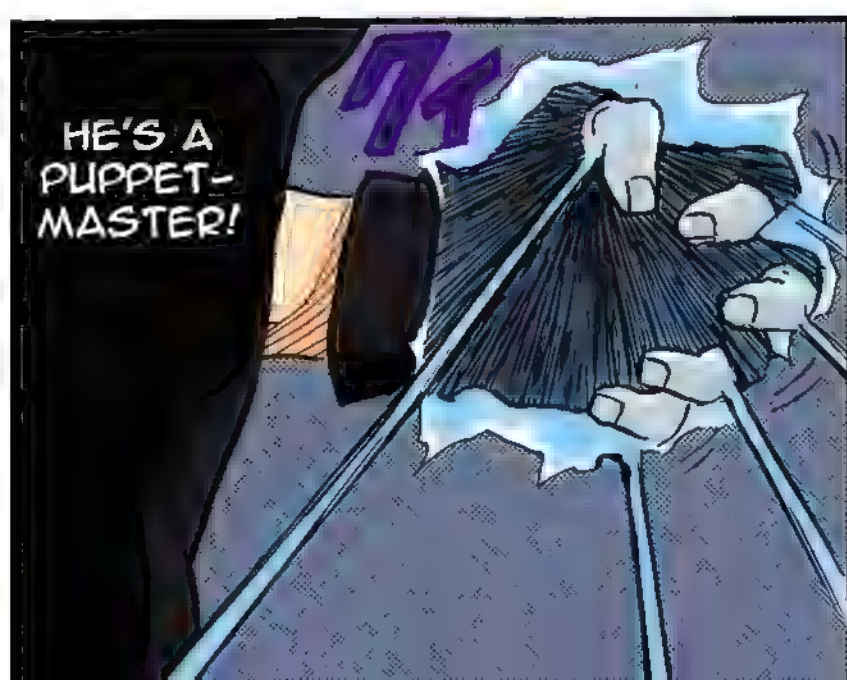
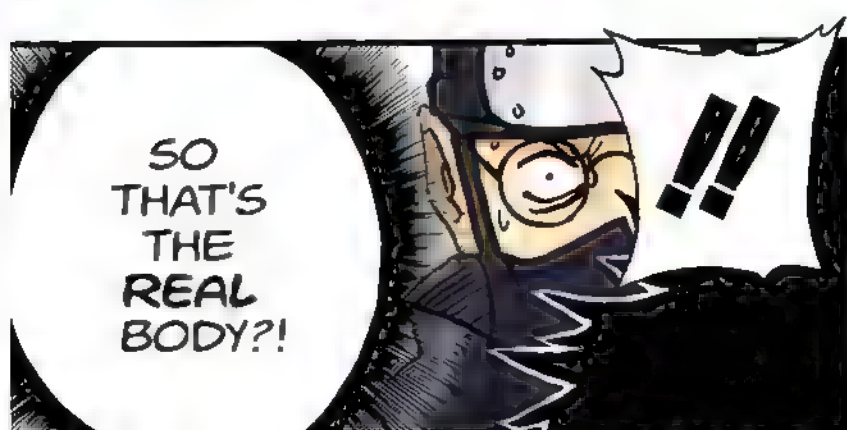
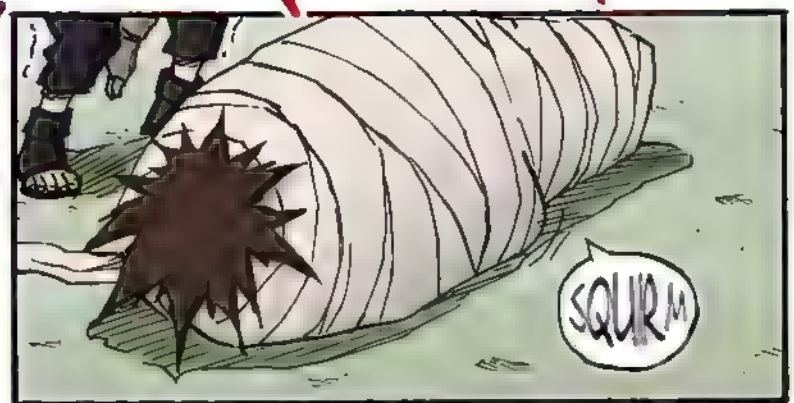
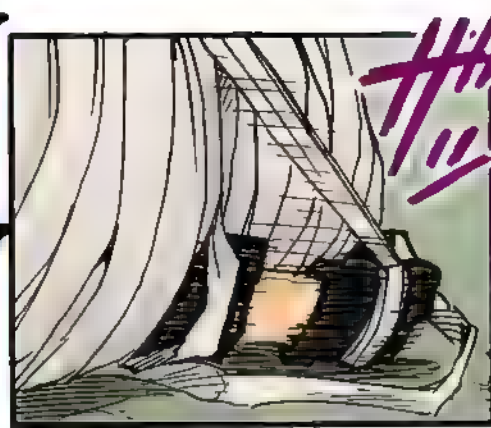
DO YOU
WANT
TO BE
THE ONE
WHO
DIES...?!

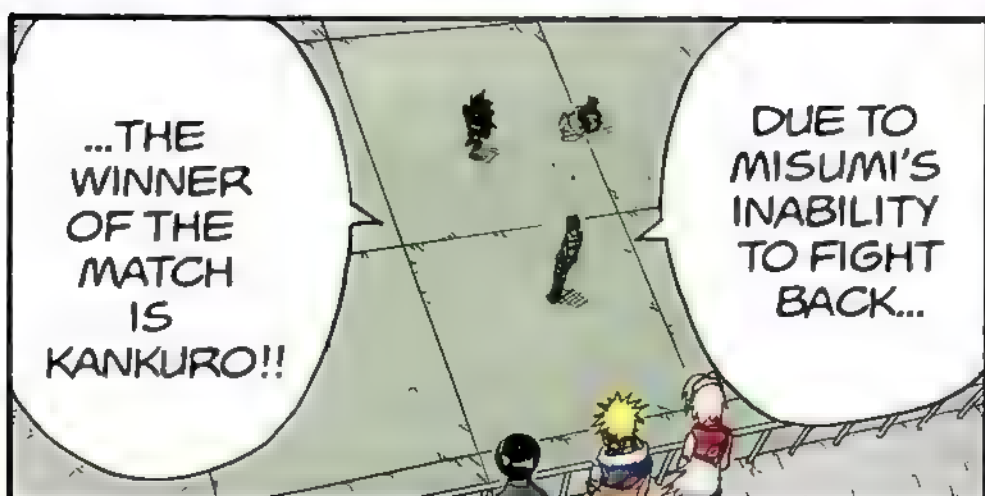
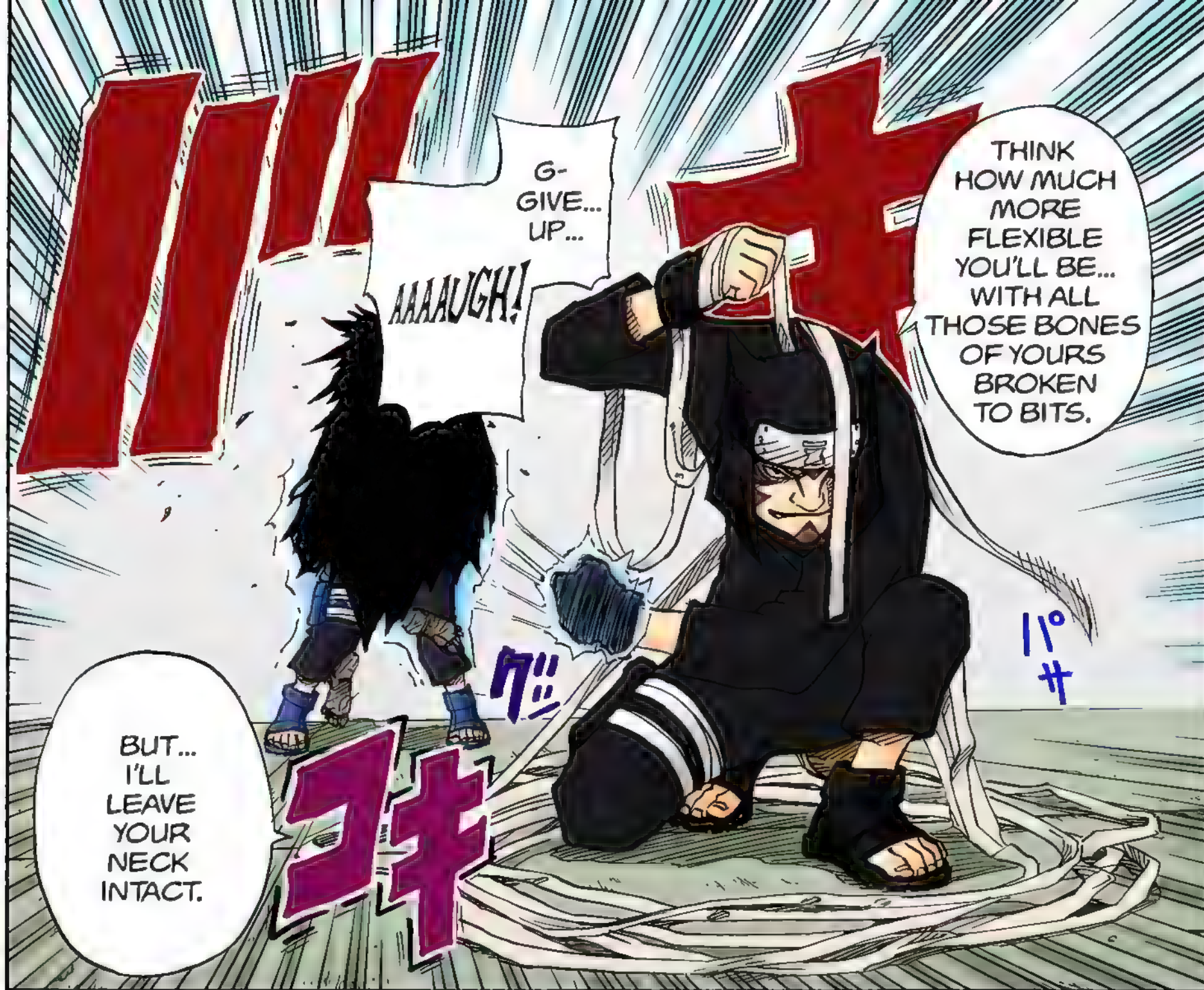
AGH...

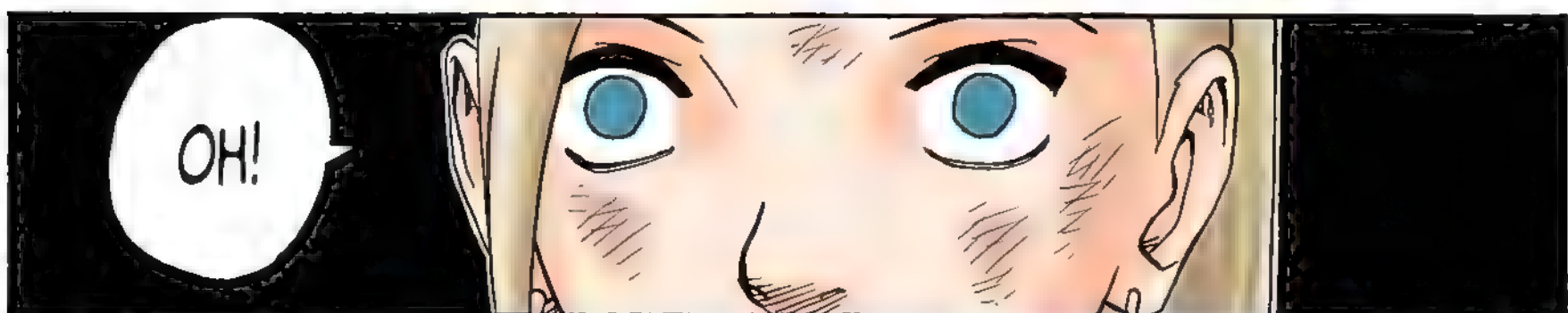
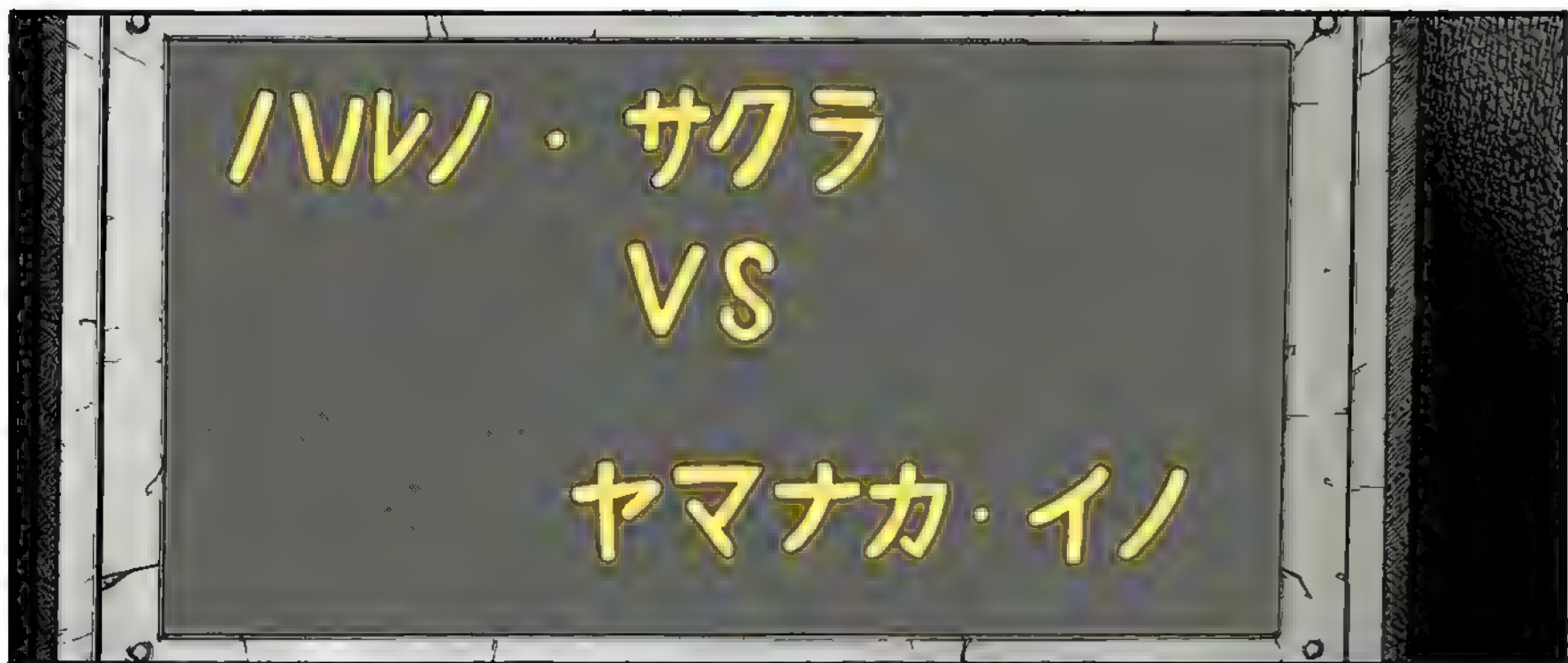
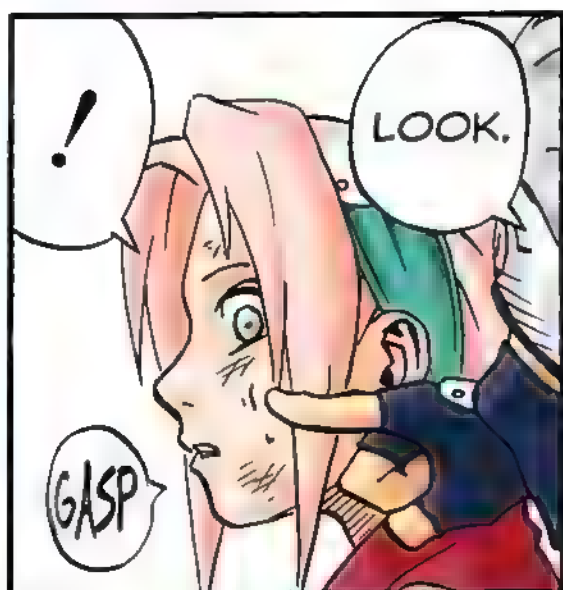












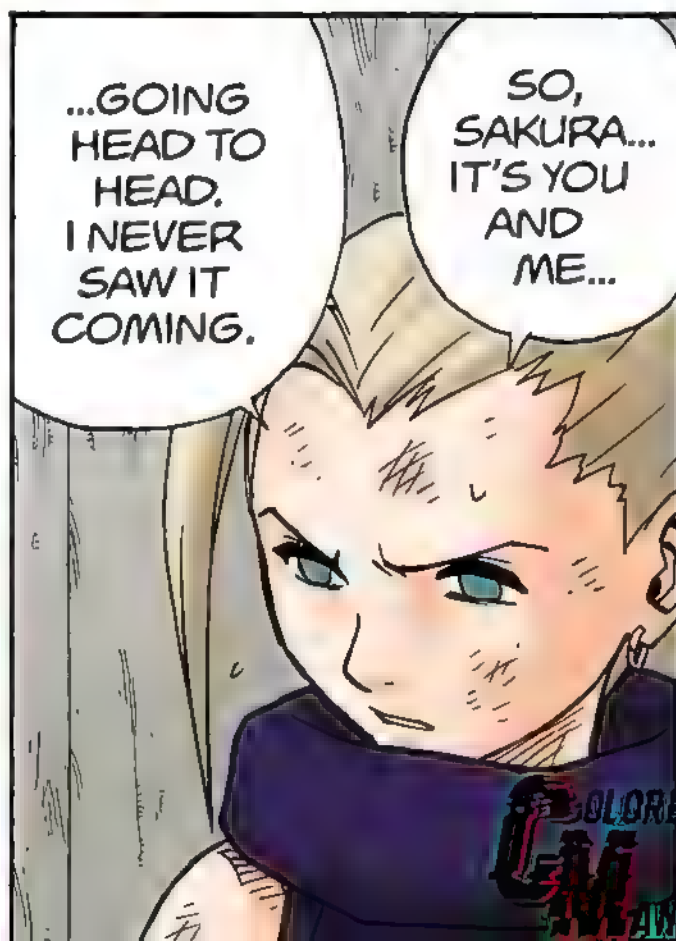
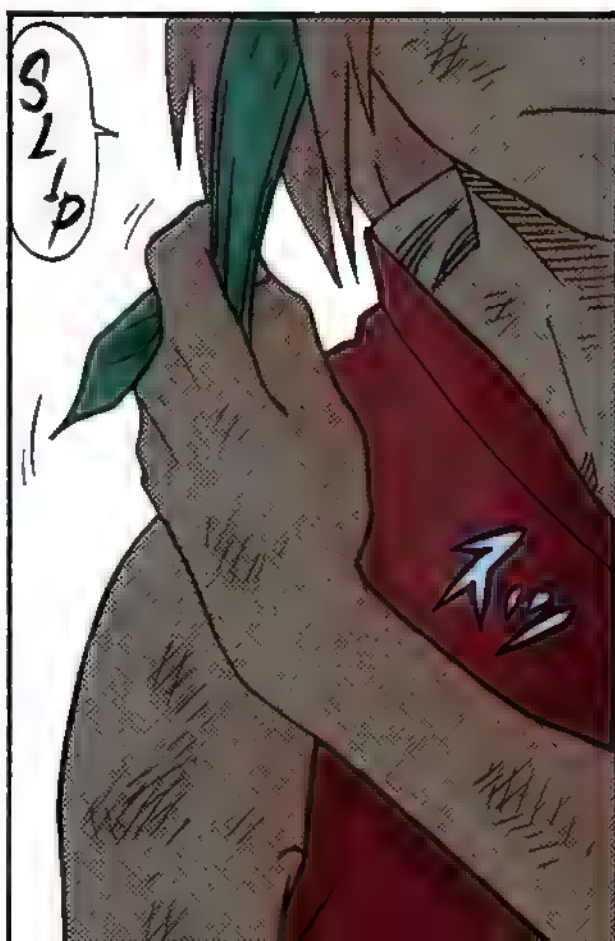
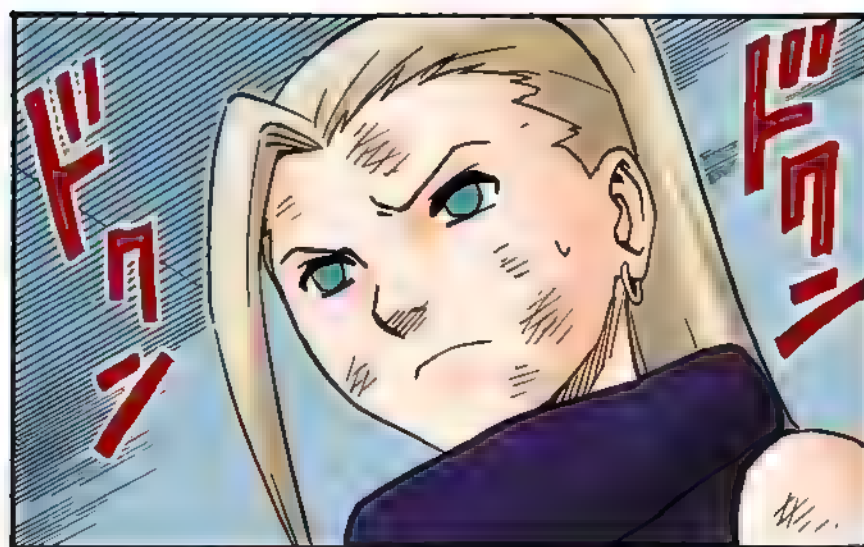
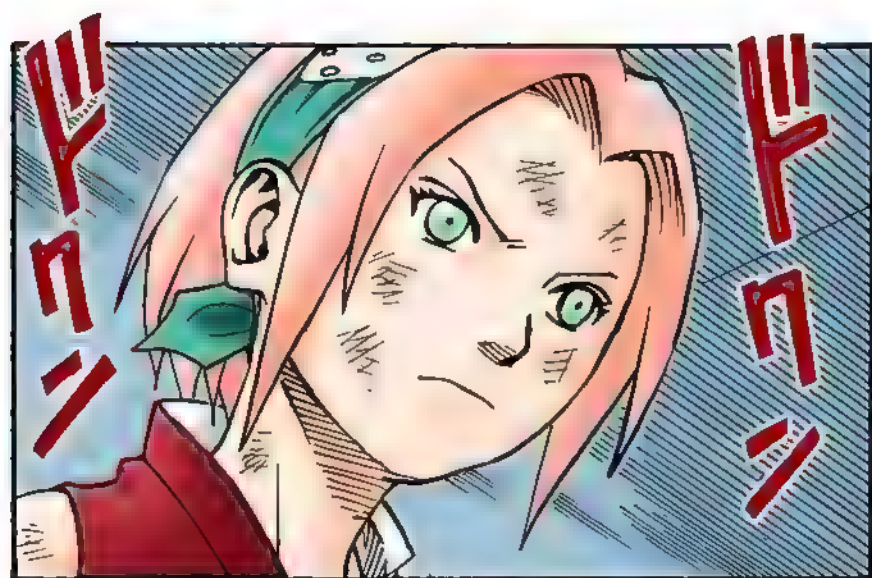
ナンバー

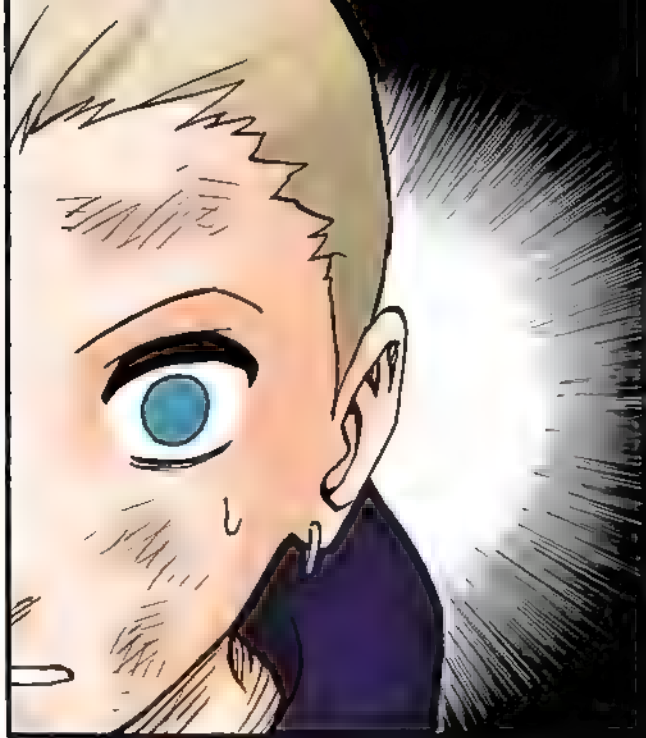


71

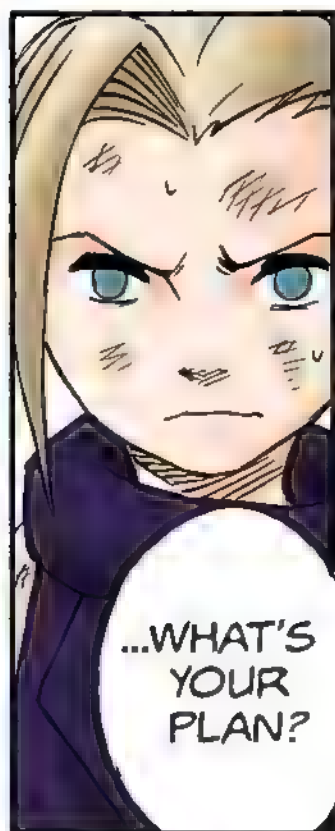
: THE INSURMOUNTABLE WALL...!!

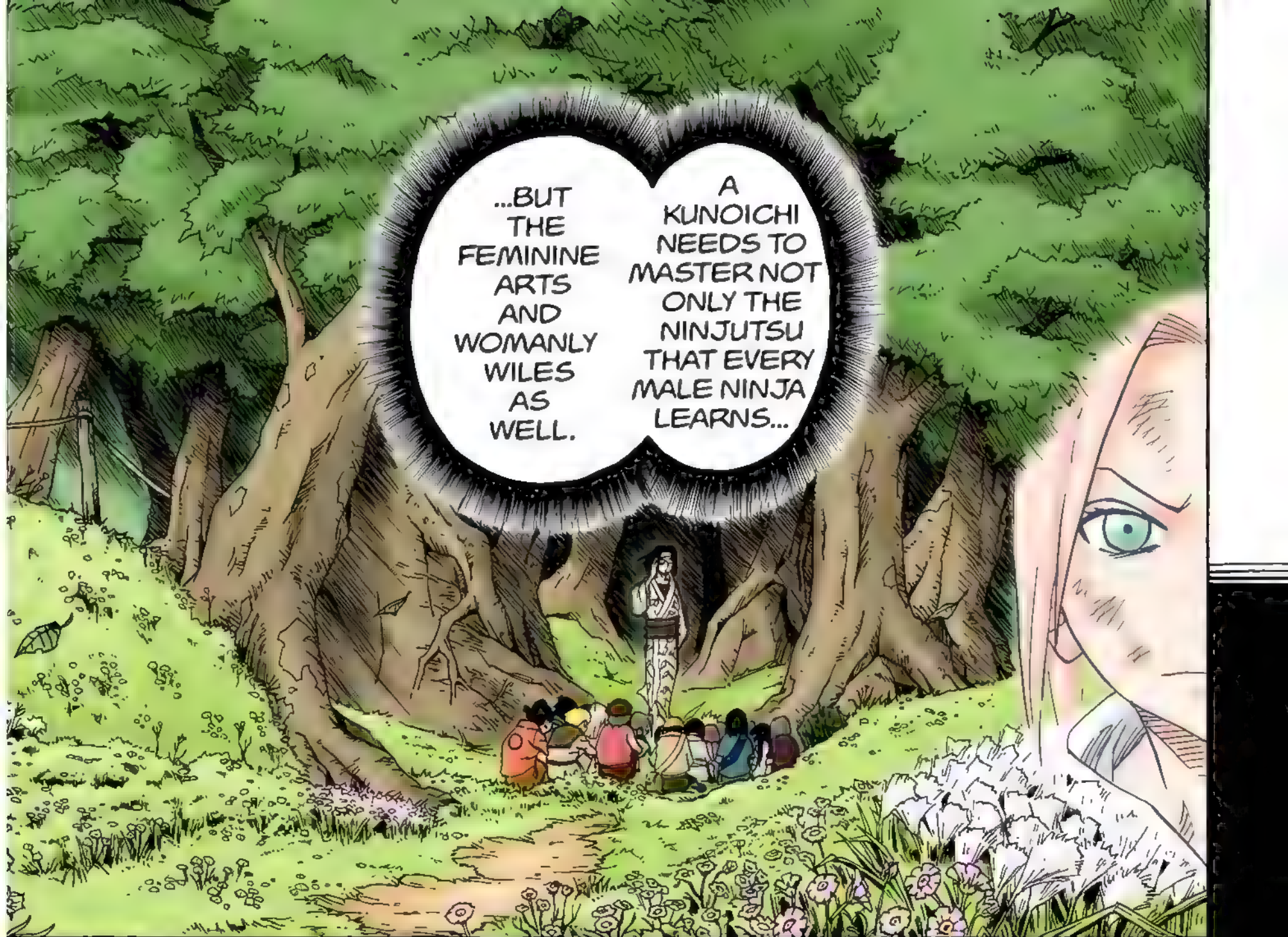






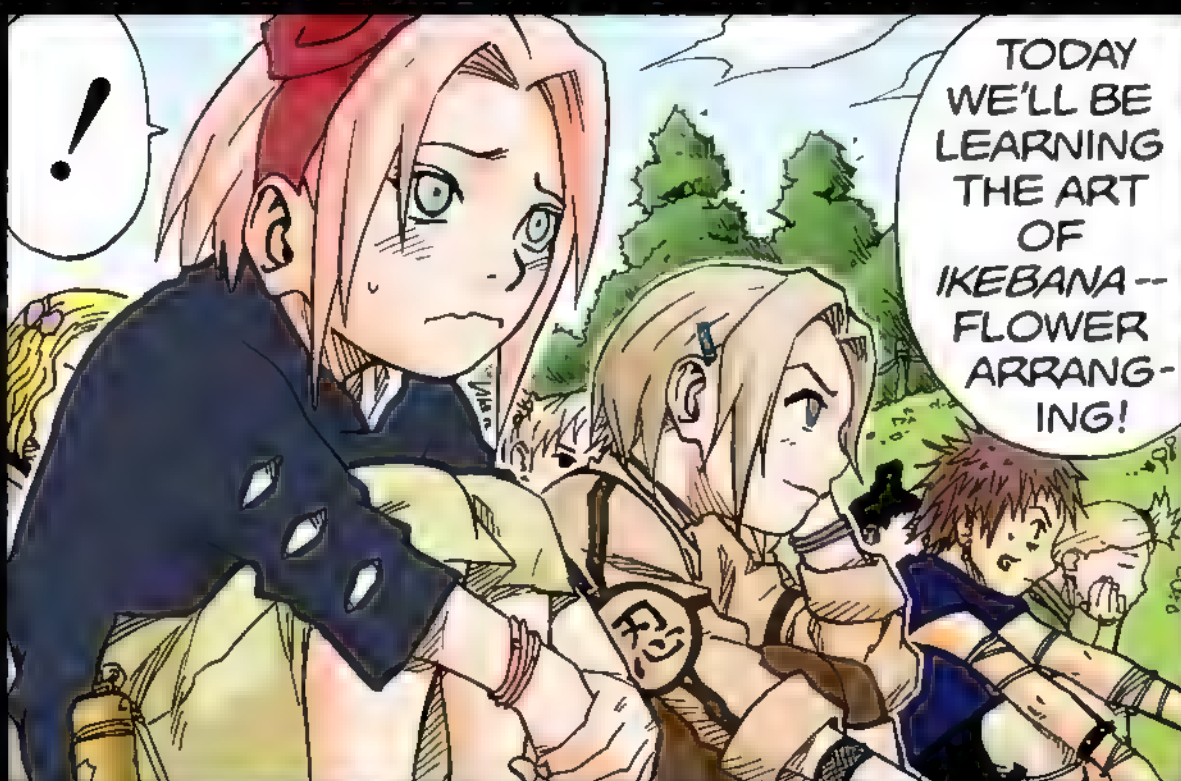
*KUNOICHI = FEMALE SHINOBI





...BUT
THE
FEMININE
ARTS
AND
WOMANLY
WILES
AS
WELL.

A
KUNOICHI
NEEDS TO
MASTER NOT
ONLY THE
NINJUTSU
THAT EVERY
MALE NINJA
LEARNS...



TODAY
WE'LL BE
LEARNING
THE ART
OF
IKEBANA--
FLOWER
ARRANG-
ING!

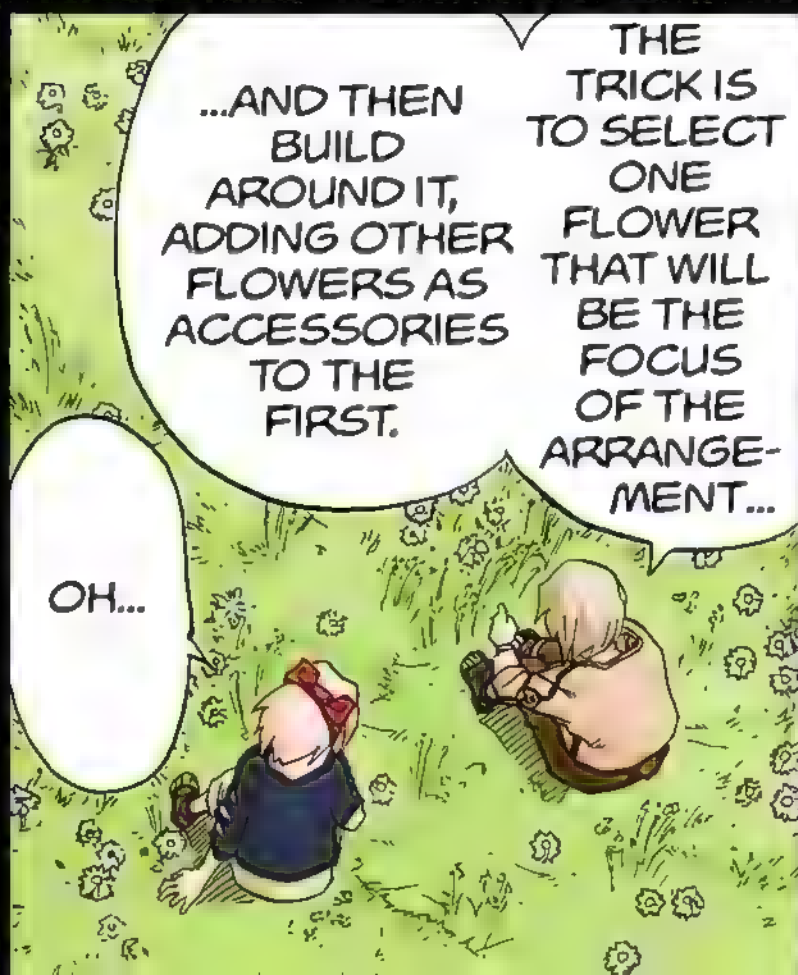
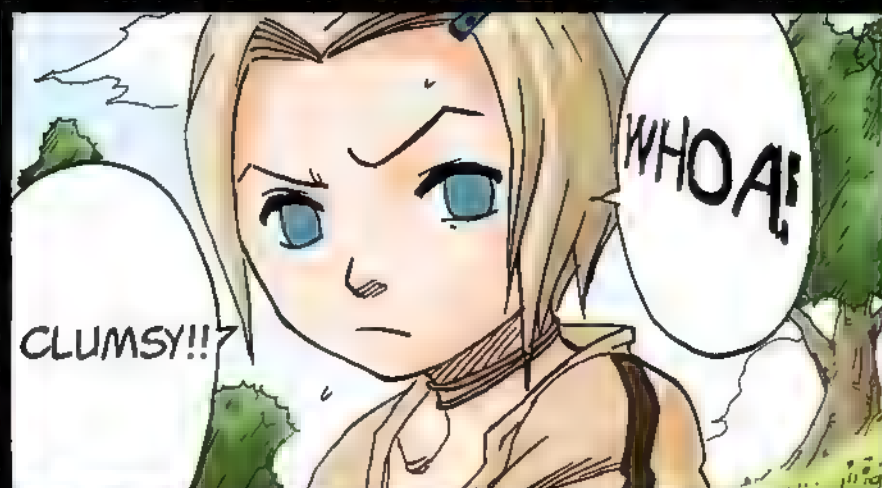
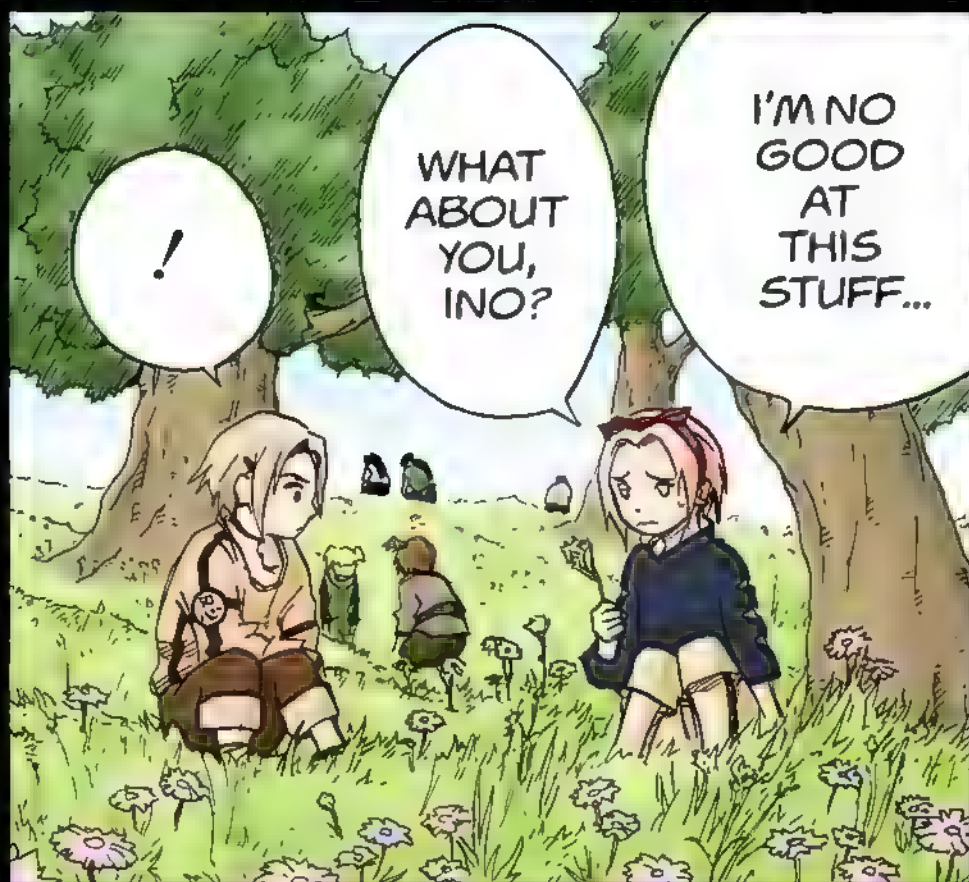
WHEN YOU'RE WITHIN
THE BORDERS OF A
HOSTILE LAND, YOU'LL
DEPEND ON YOUR
ABILITY TO PASS
YOURSELVES OFF AS
NORMAL WOMEN.
WITHOUT THAT
SKILL...

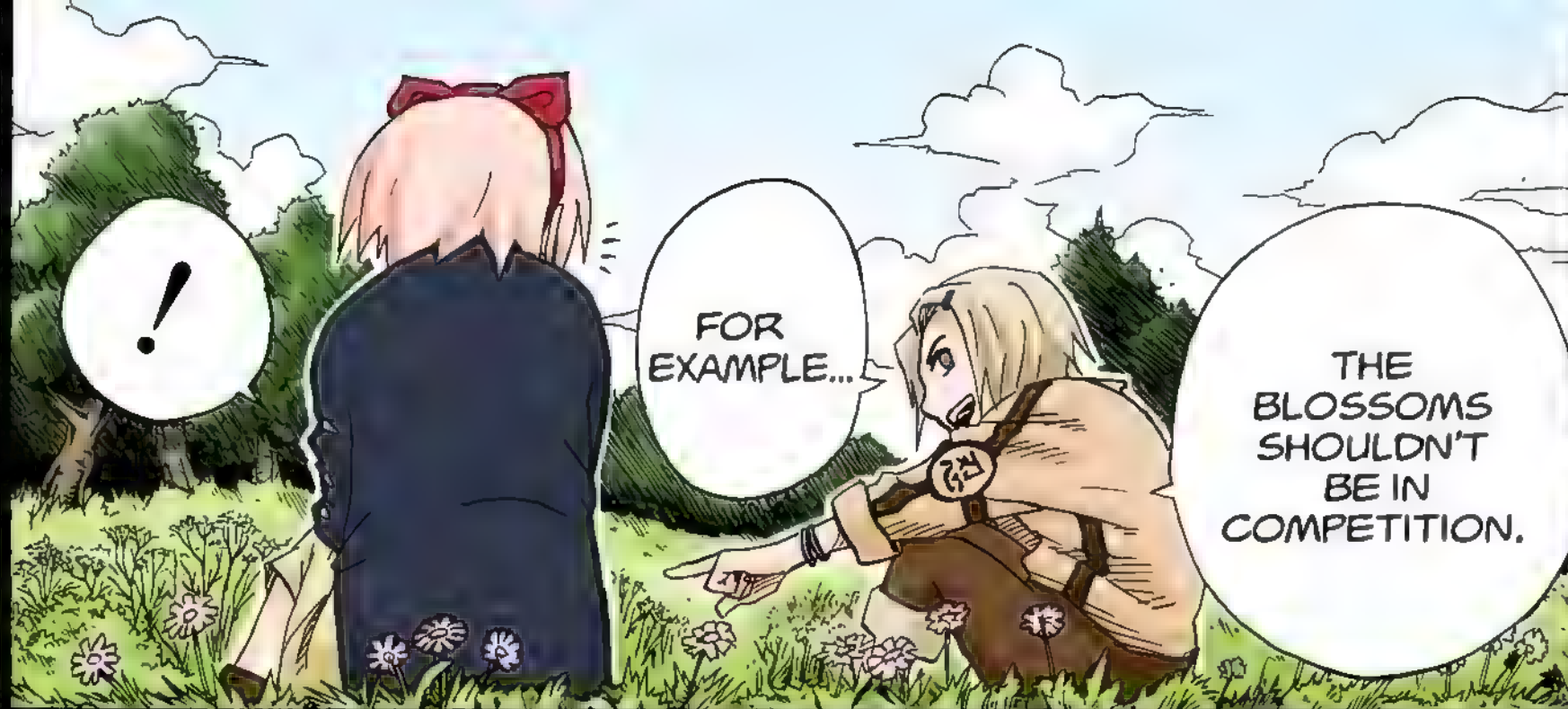


...EVEN THE
SIMPLEST OF
SPY TASKS
BECOMES AN
UNMANAGEABLE
CHORE.

YES,
MA'AM!!

TO BEGIN,
EVERYONE
MUST GO OUT
AND GATHER
WHATEVER
FLOWERS
YOU
PLEASE.





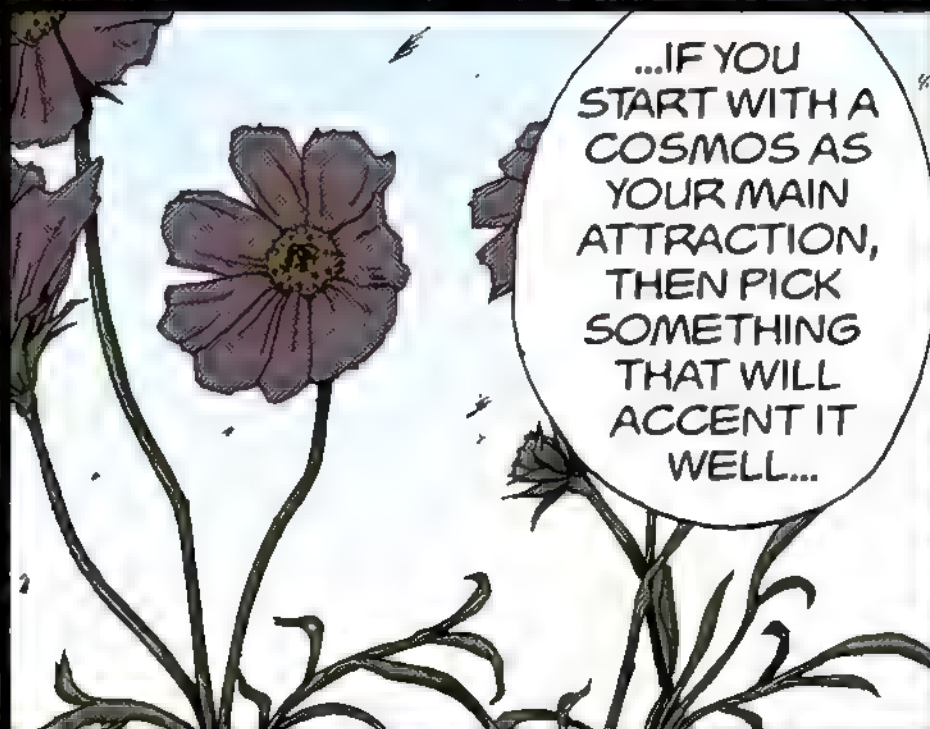
FOR
EXAMPLE...

THE
BLOSSOMS
SHOULDN'T
BE IN
COMPETITION.

...LIKE
THIS
FUJIBAKAMA--
THE
"PURPLE
TROUSERS"
FLOWER.

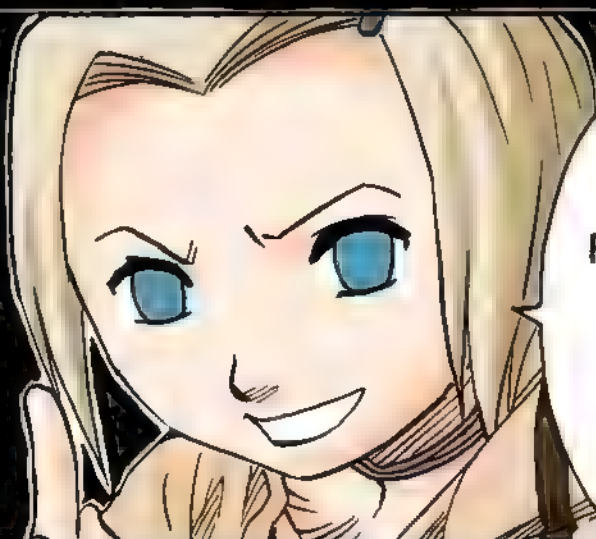


...IF YOU
START WITH A
COSMOS AS
YOUR MAIN
ATTRACTION,
THEN PICK
SOMETHING
THAT WILL
ACCENT IT
WELL...



...AND
IT
DOES
HAR-
MONIZE
WITH
ALMOST
EVERY-
THING.

THE
REAL
MEANING
OF THE
WORD
"COSMOS"
IS
"HARMONY"
...



...THE
PRETTIEST
FLOWER
OF
THE
FALL.

NOW, YOU
KNOW A CHERRY
BLOSSOM IS
A "SAKURA"...
AND THE
COSMOS IS
AN "AKIZAKURA,"
OR AUTUMN
CHERRY...

THEN...
WHY DID
YOU
HESITATE?!

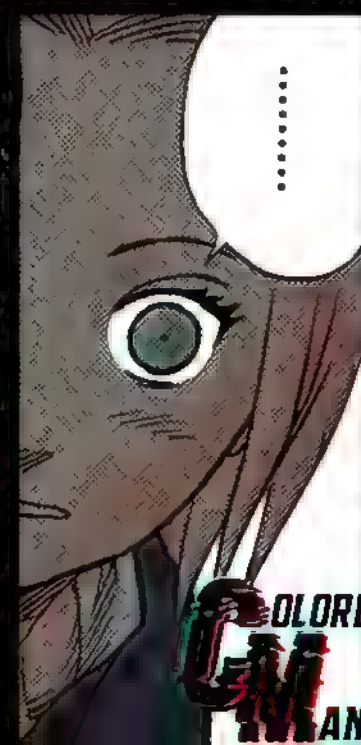
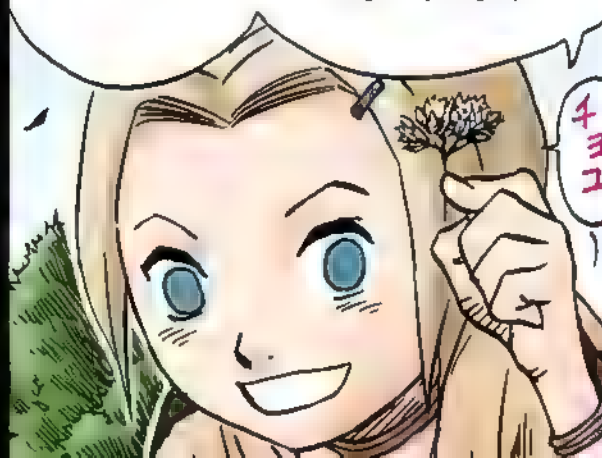
UHH...
YEAH!

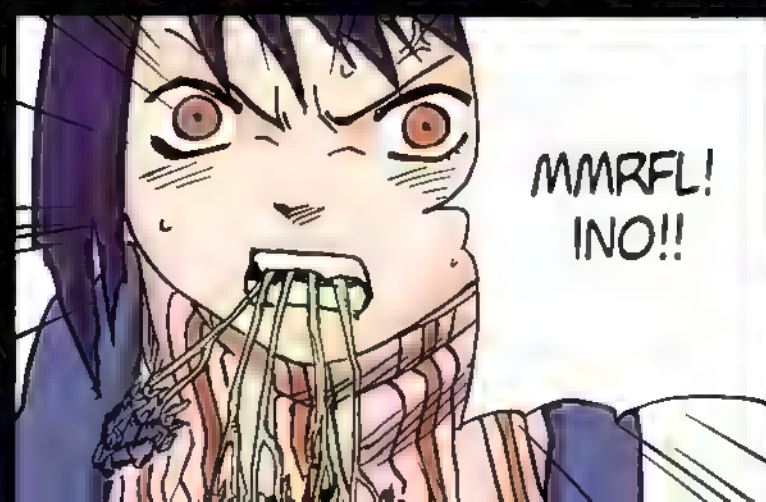
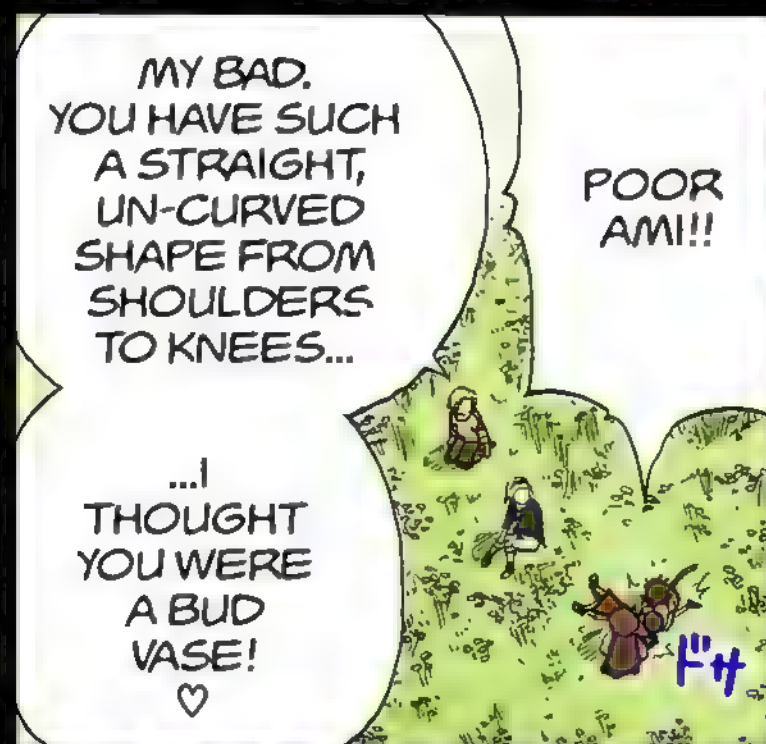
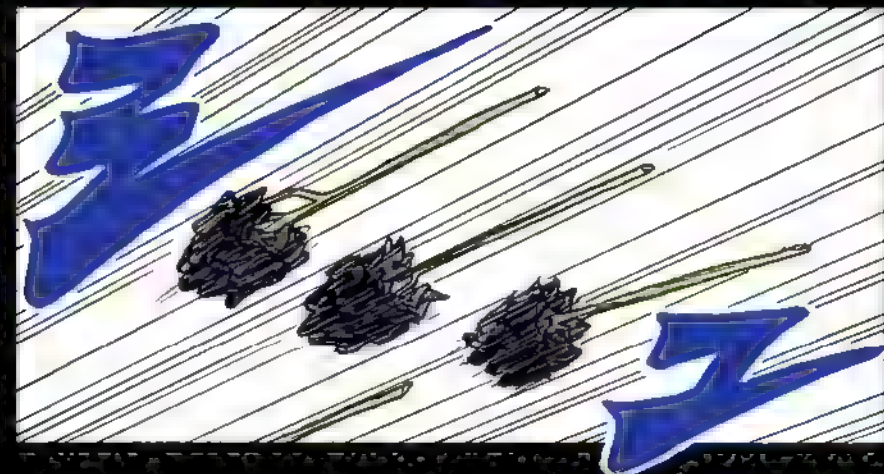
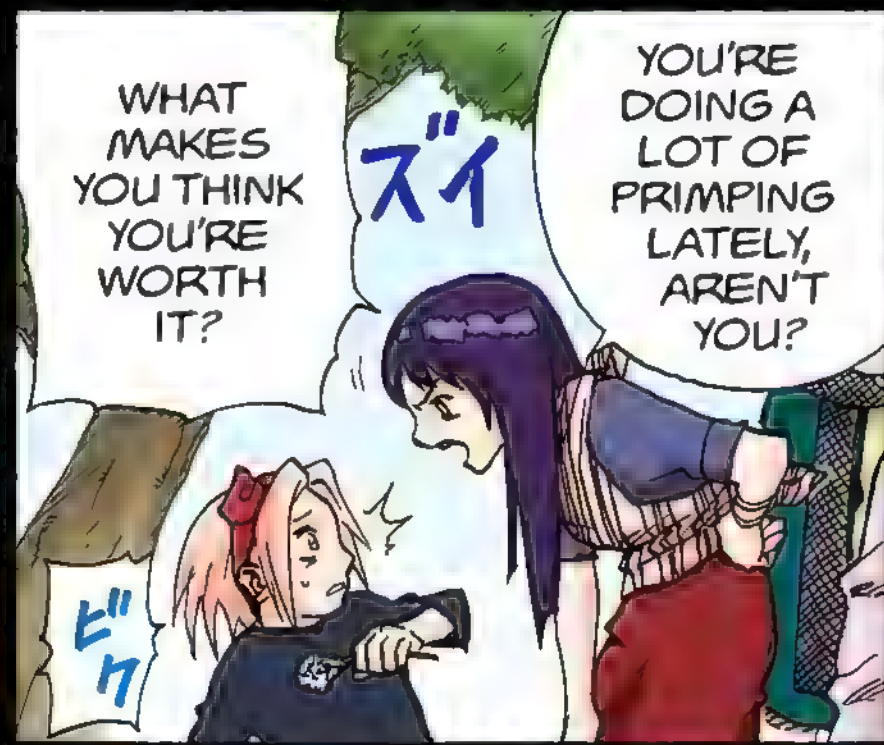
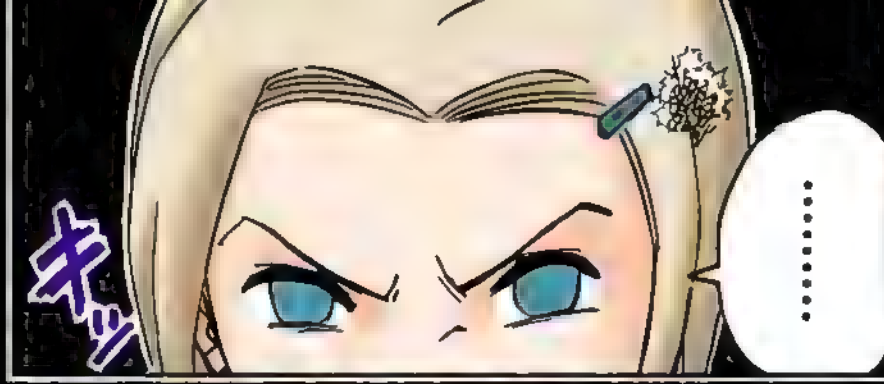
HEH
HEH...

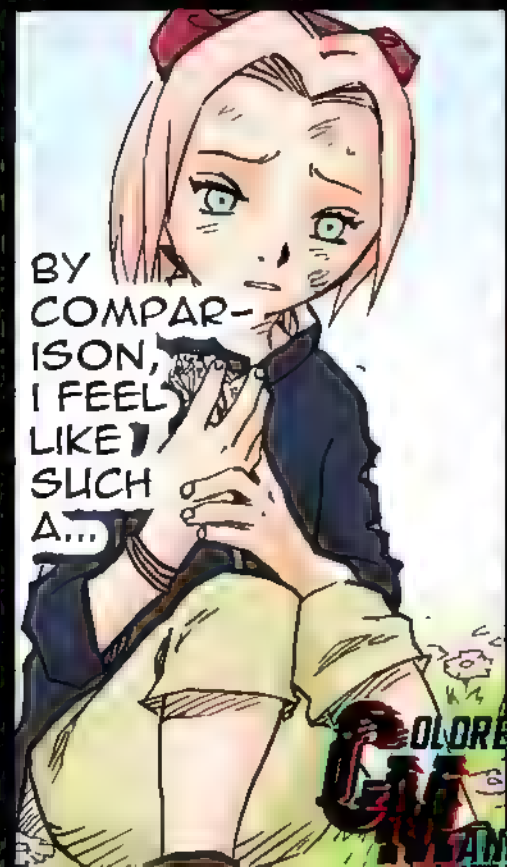
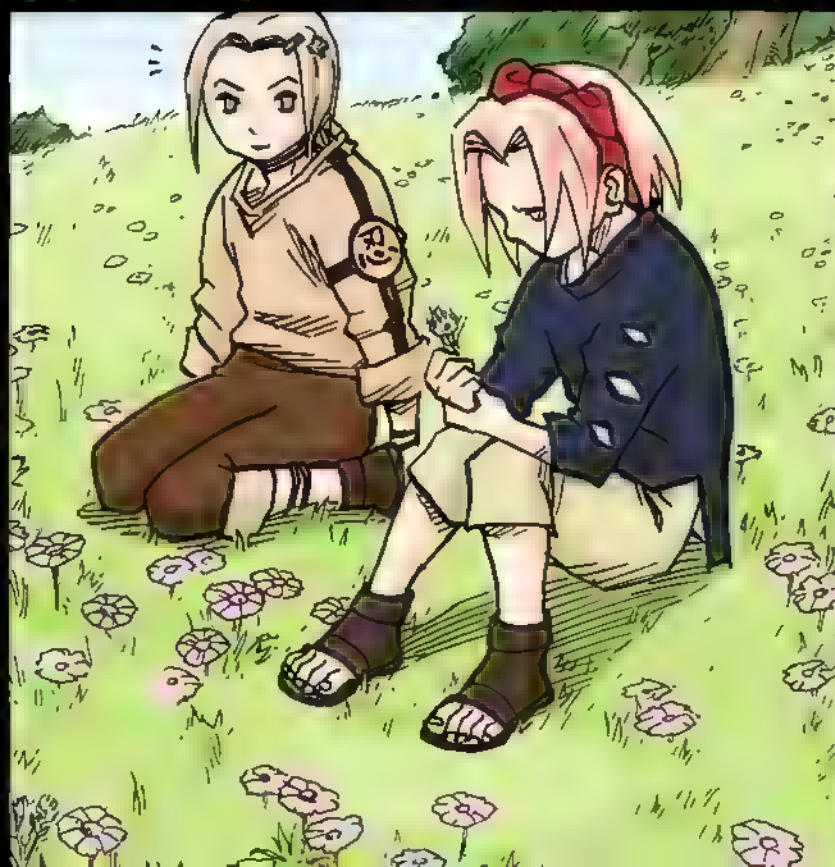
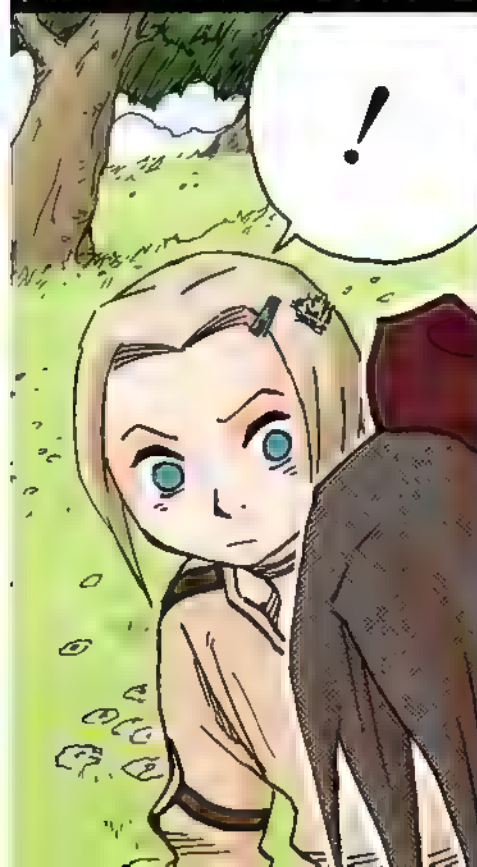
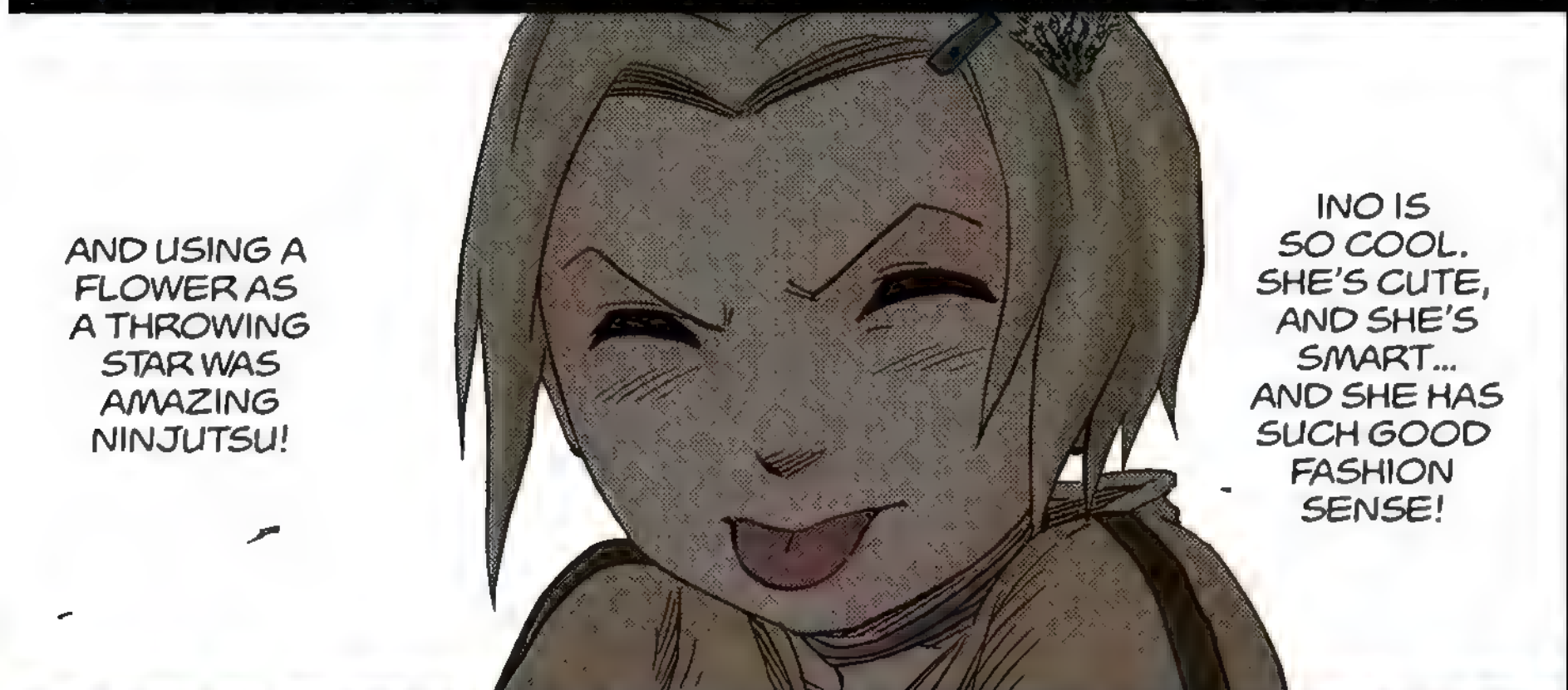
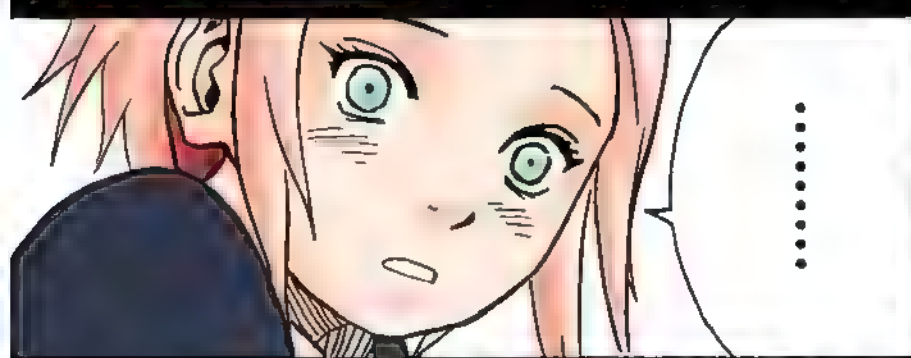


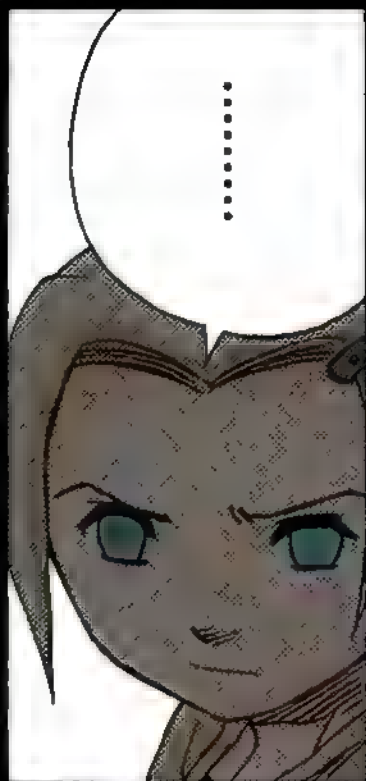
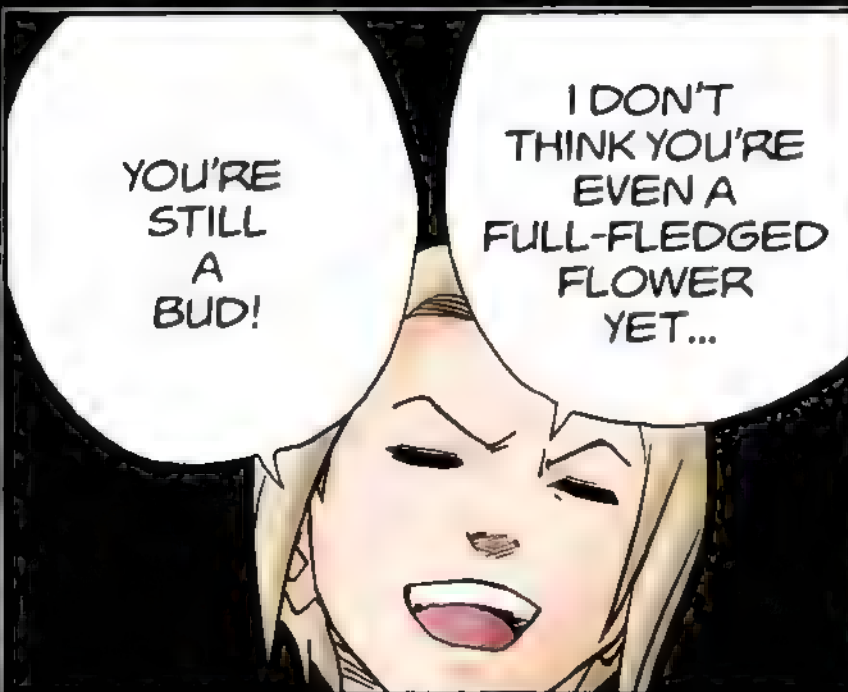
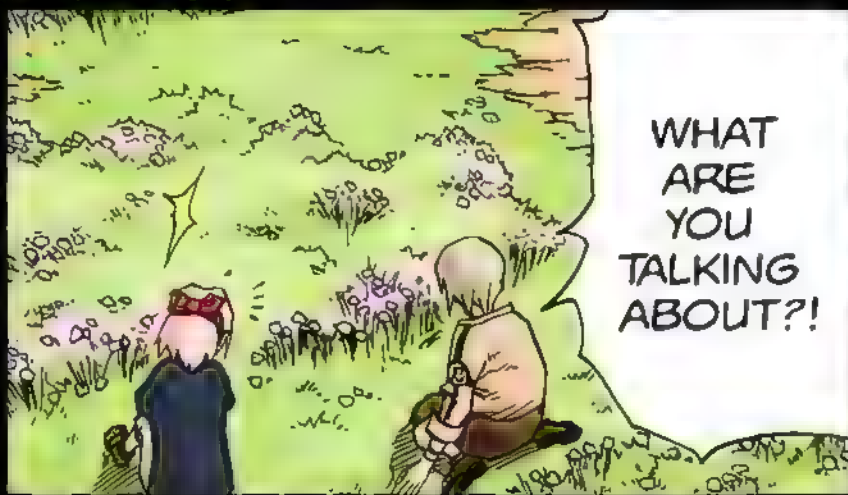
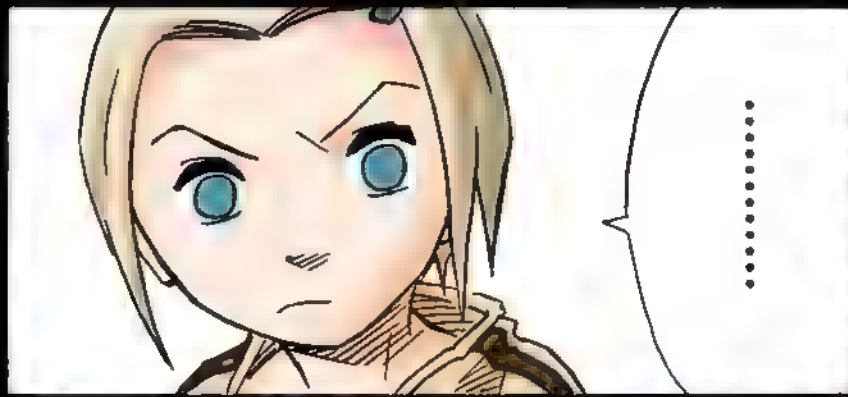
AREN'T
I?!

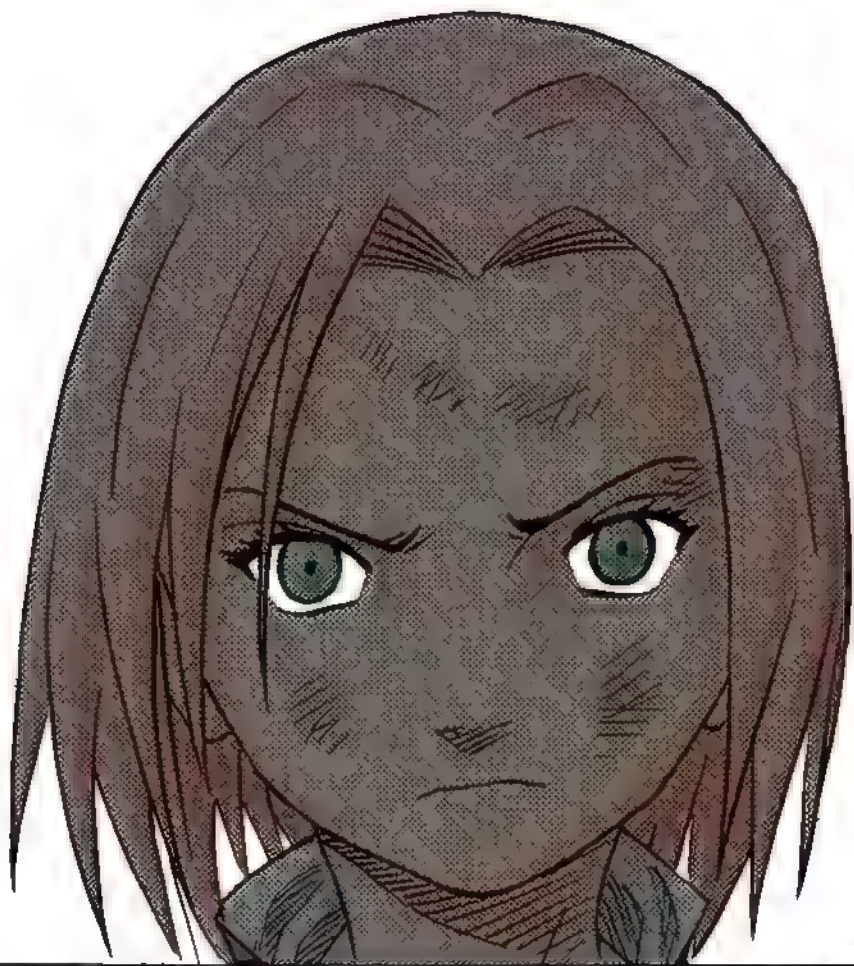
BUT I THINK
I'M EVEN
PRETTIER
THAN THE
COSMOS.











AND I'M
NOT THE
WEAK, NEEDY
LITTLE GIRL I
USED TO BE.
YOU'RE NOT
EVEN ON MY
RADAR
NOW.

YOU'RE
NOT
EVEN
HIS
TYPE!

WHAT--?!

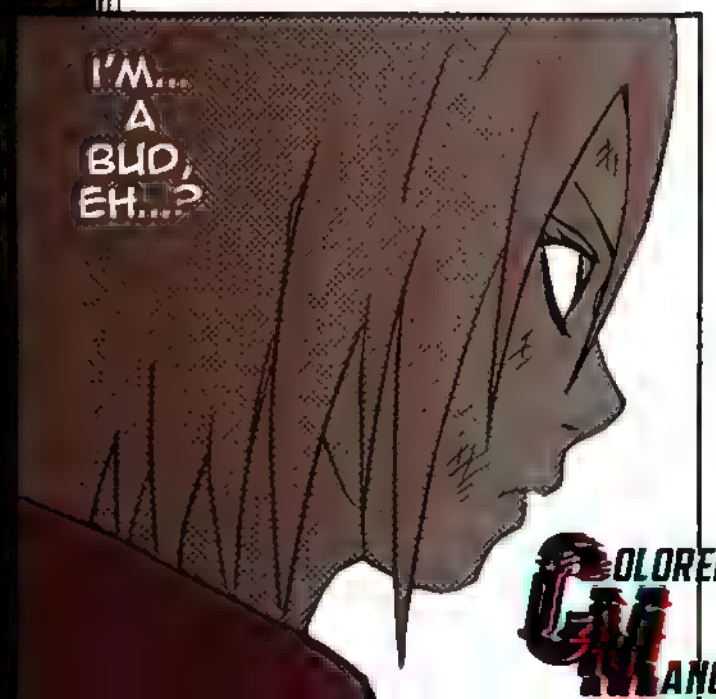
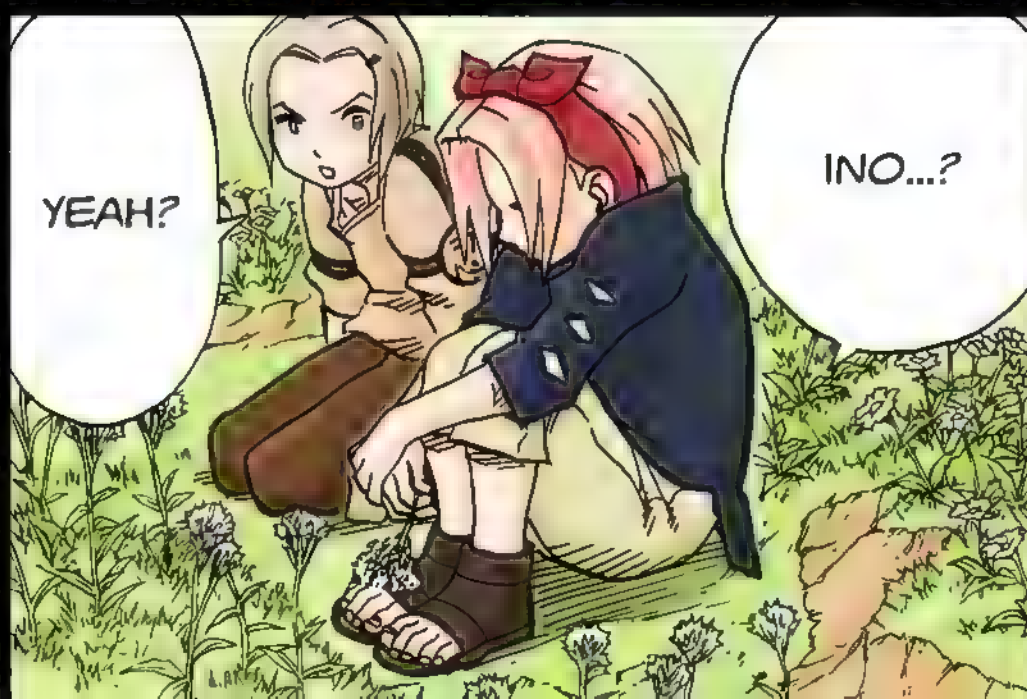
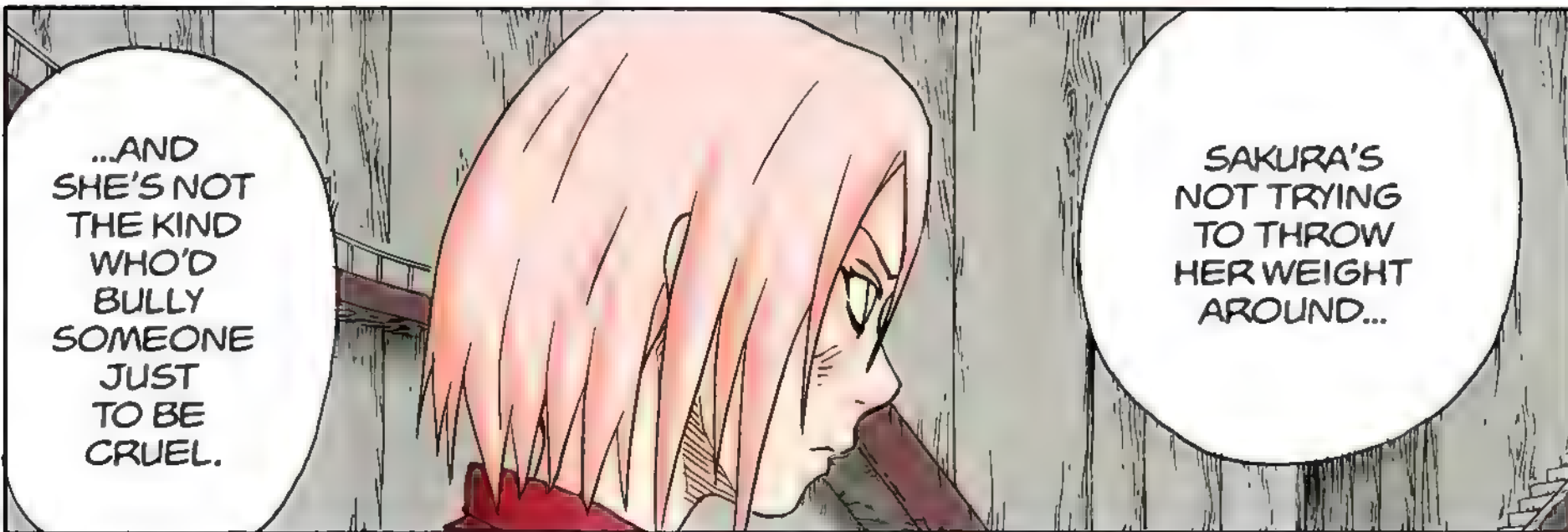
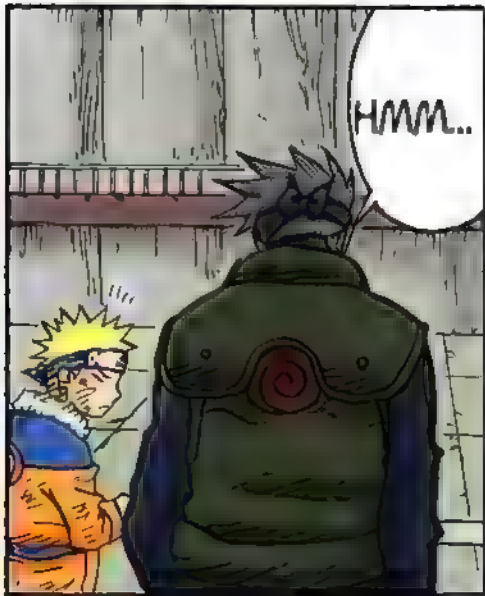
I'M
NEVER
LETTING
YOU
ANYWHERE
NEAR
SASUKE.

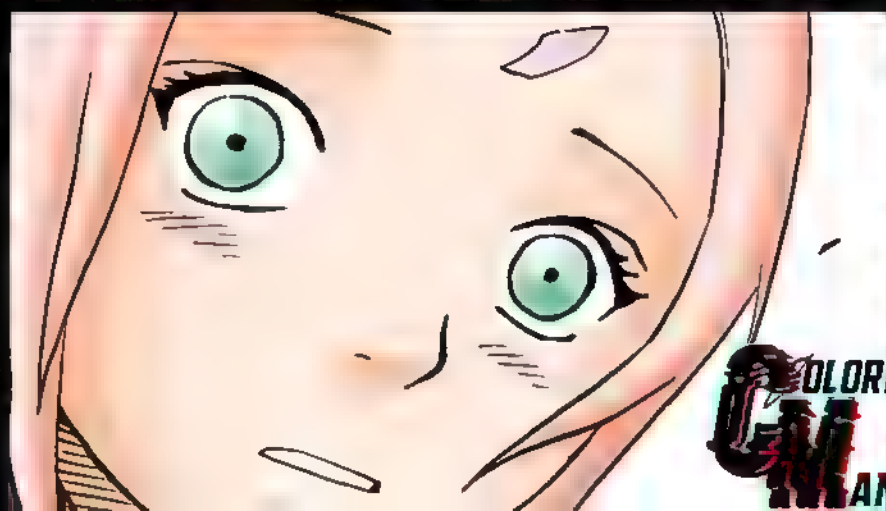
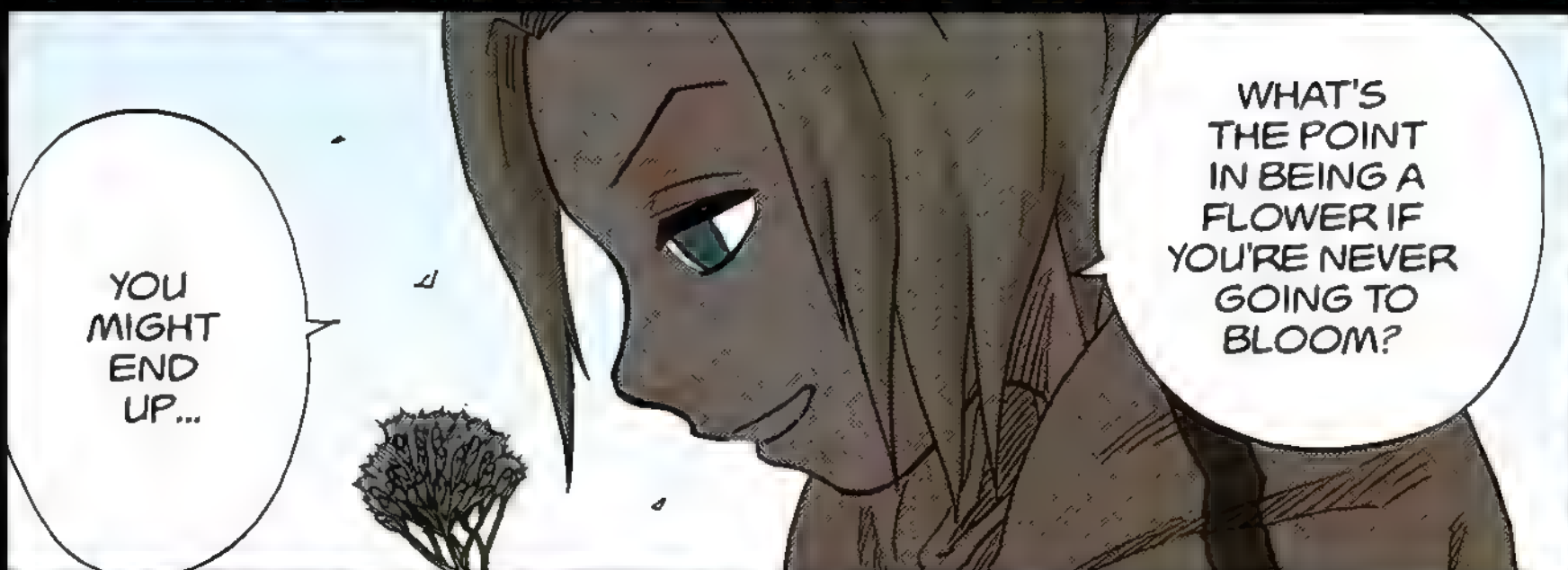
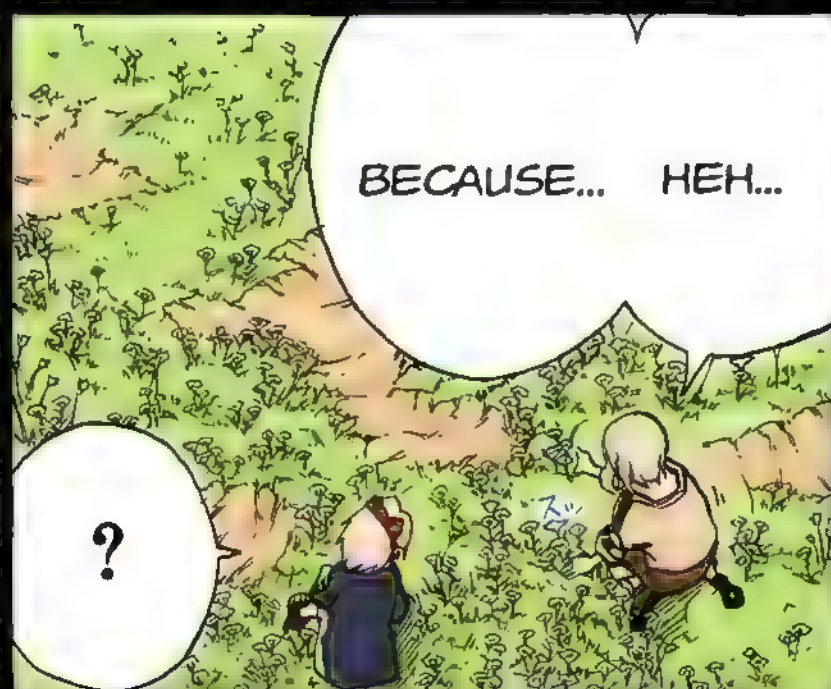
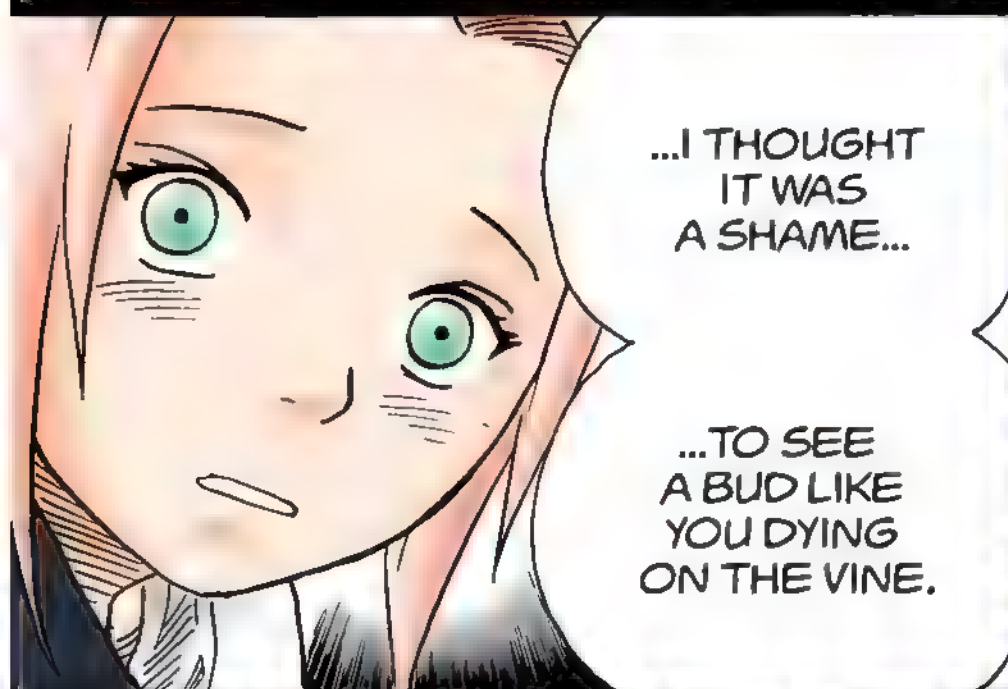
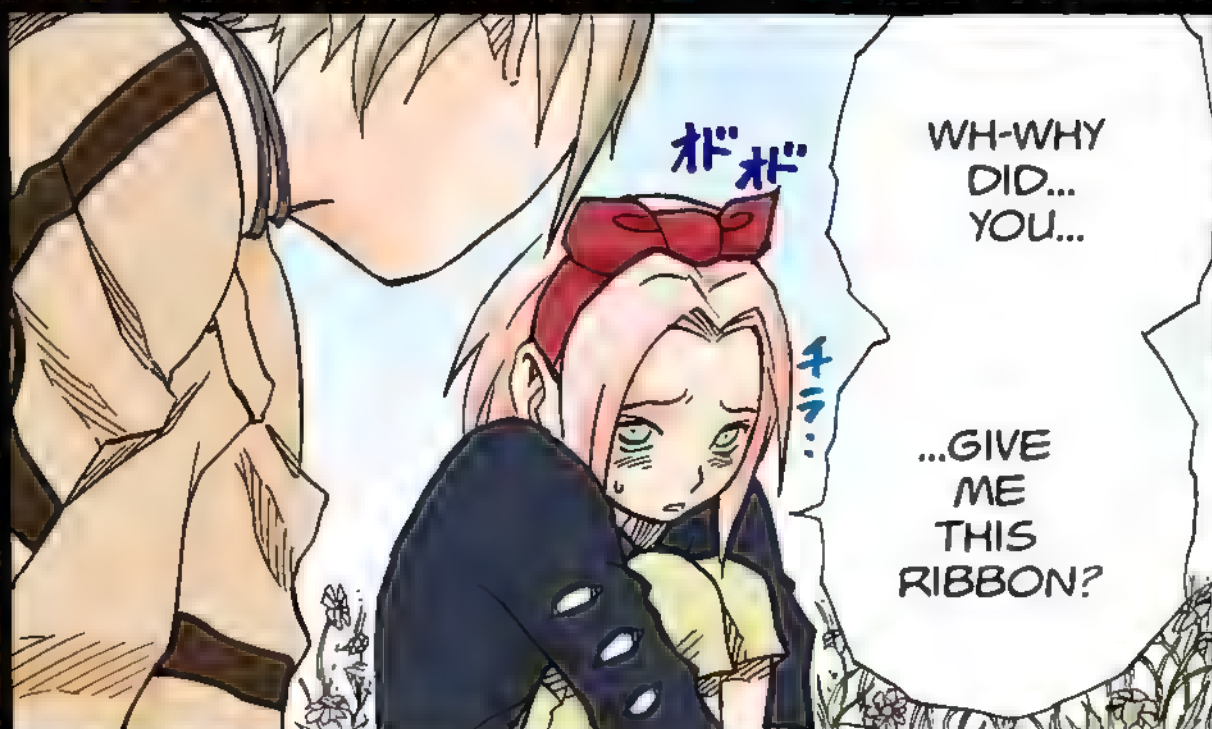
UNDER-
STAND
THIS...

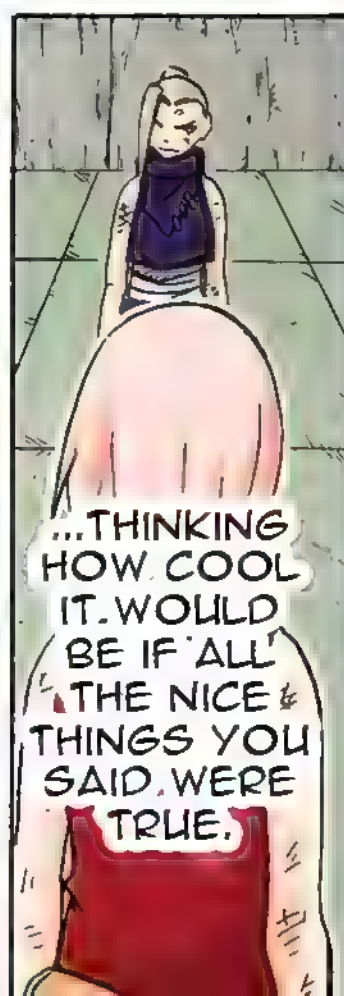
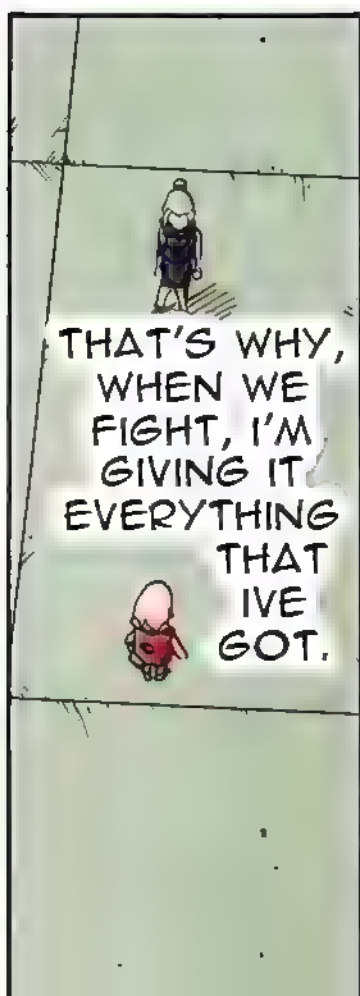
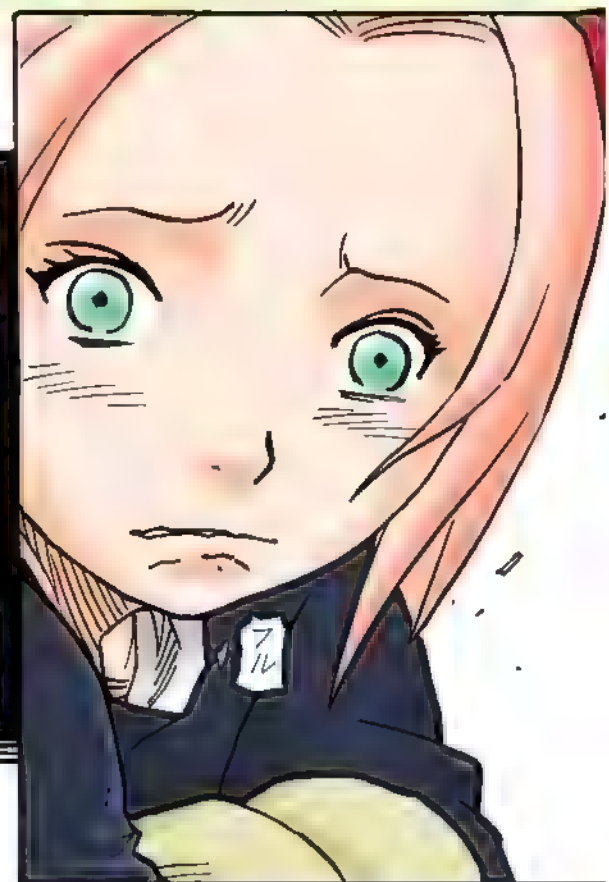
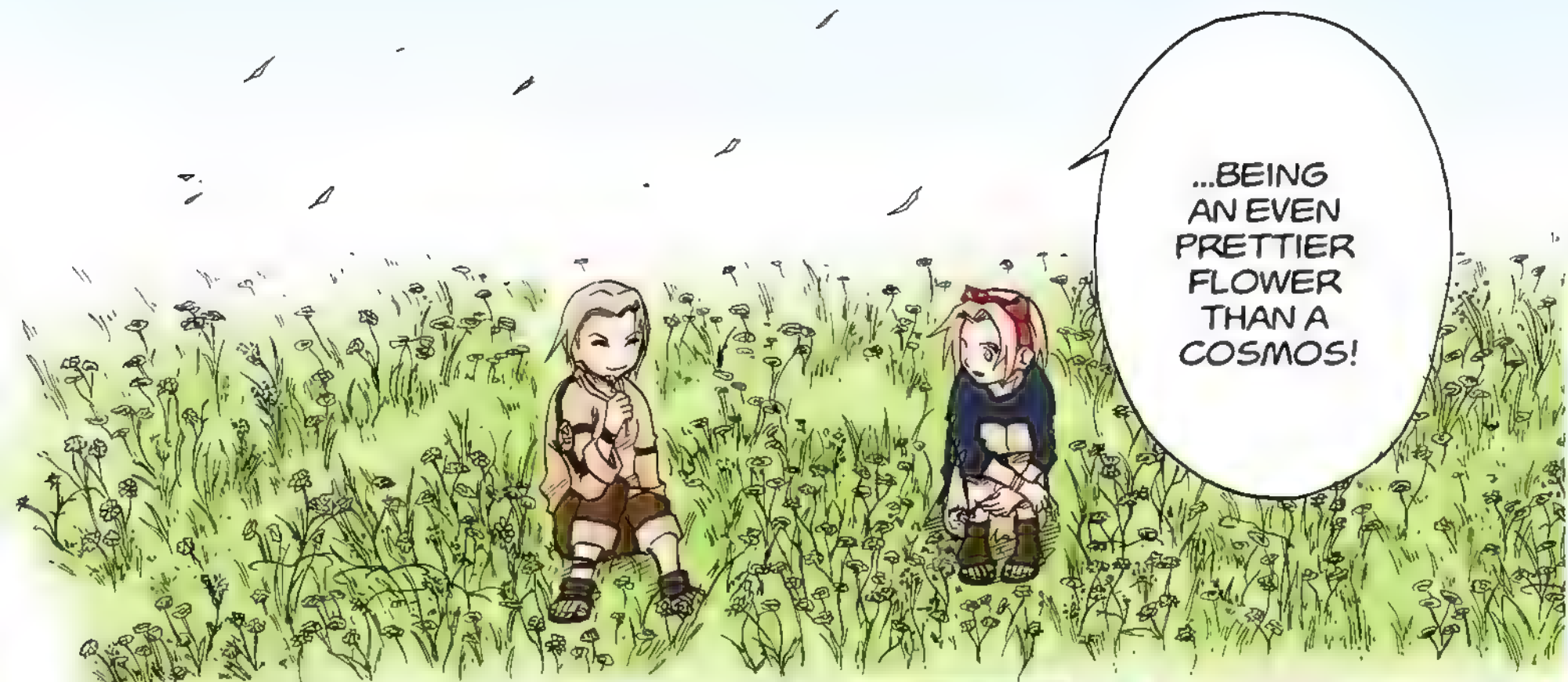
!

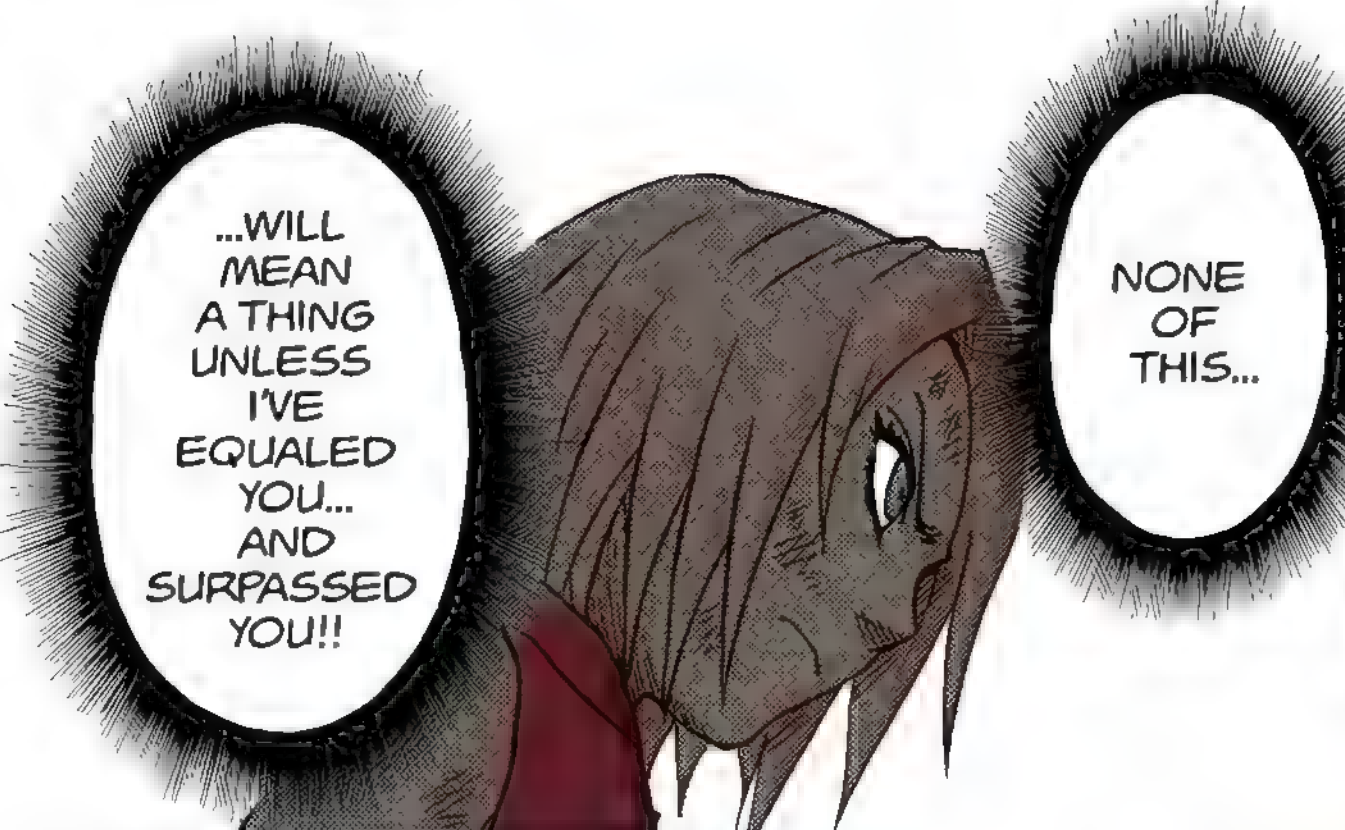
DON'T
COP AN
ATTITUDE
WITH ME,
YOU
LITTLE
CRYBABY.

SAKURA...
I THINK
YOU'VE
FORGOTTEN
WHO
YOU'RE
TALKING
TO.







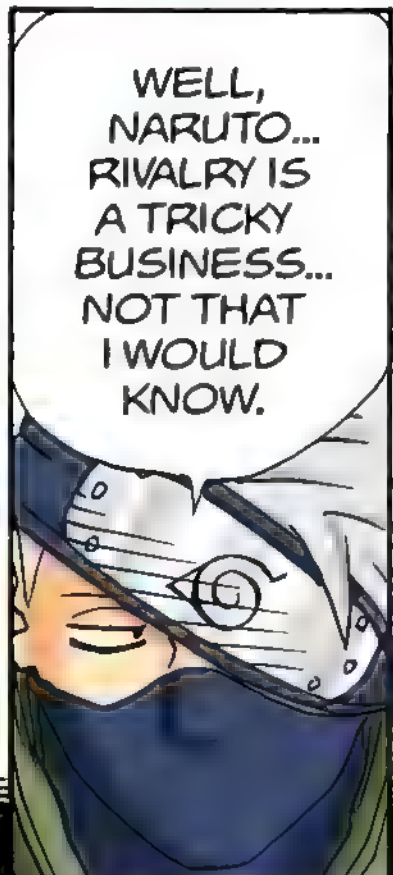


...WILL
MEAN
A THING
UNLESS
I'VE
EQUALED
YOU...
AND
SURPASSED
YOU!!

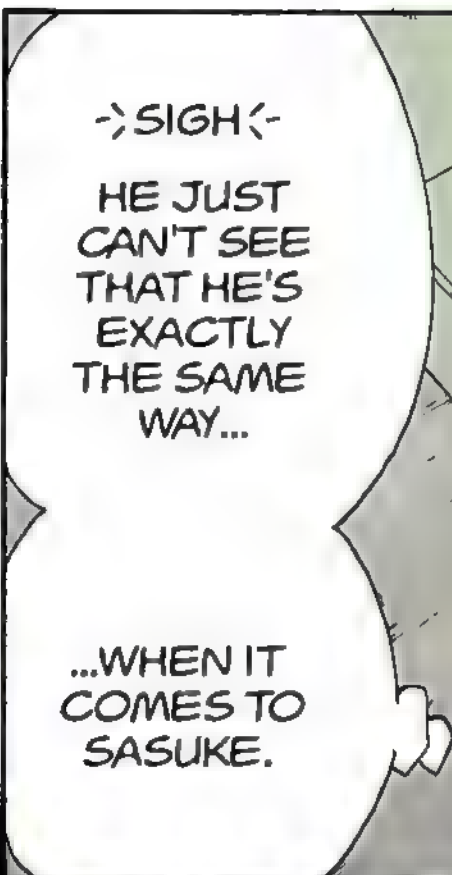
NONE
OF
THIS...



HUNH?!



WELL,
NARUTO...
RIVALRY IS
A TRICKY
BUSINESS...
NOT THAT
I WOULD
KNOW.

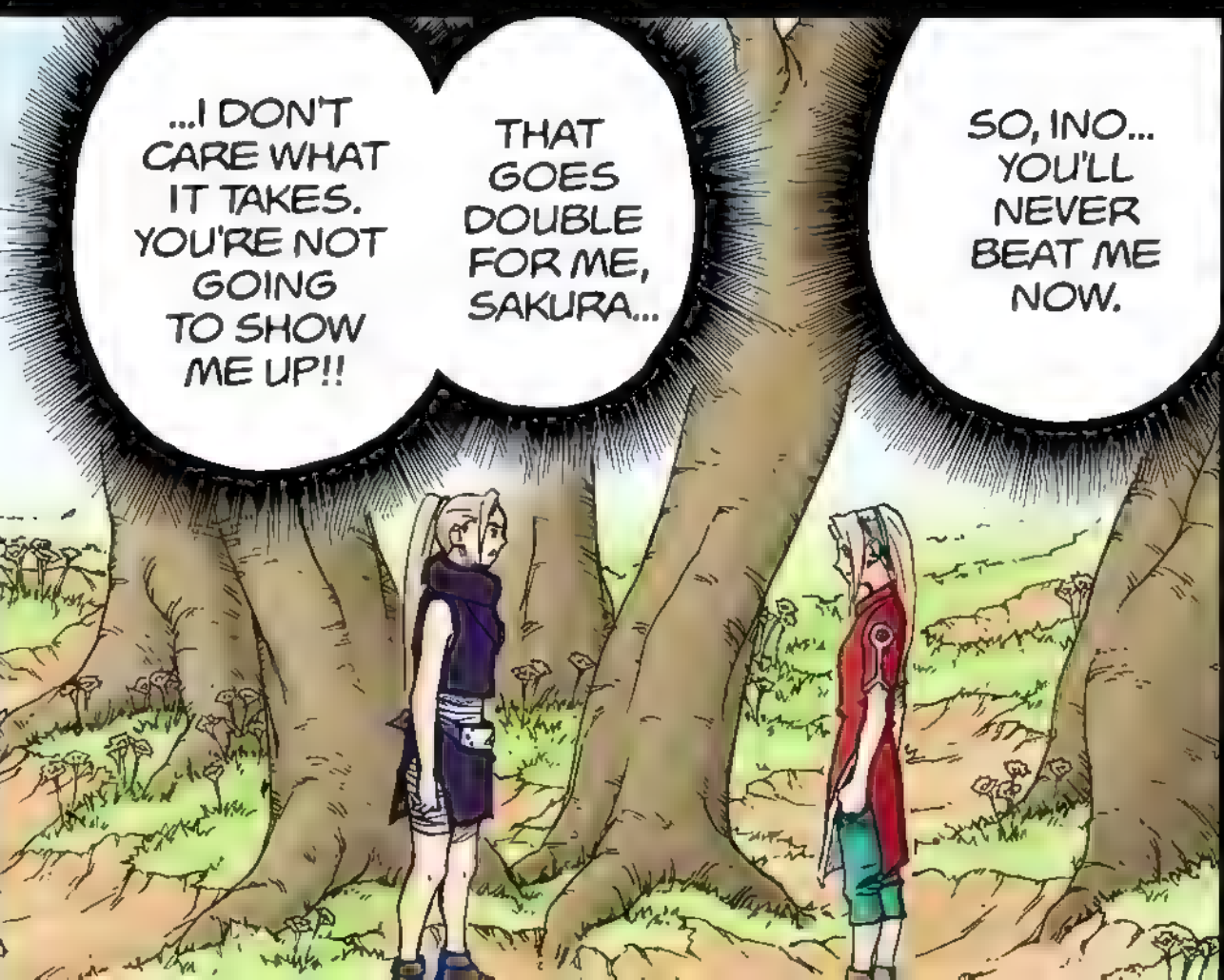


~SIGH~
HE JUST
CAN'T SEE
THAT HE'S
EXACTLY
THE SAME
WAY...

...WHEN IT
COMES TO
SASUKE.



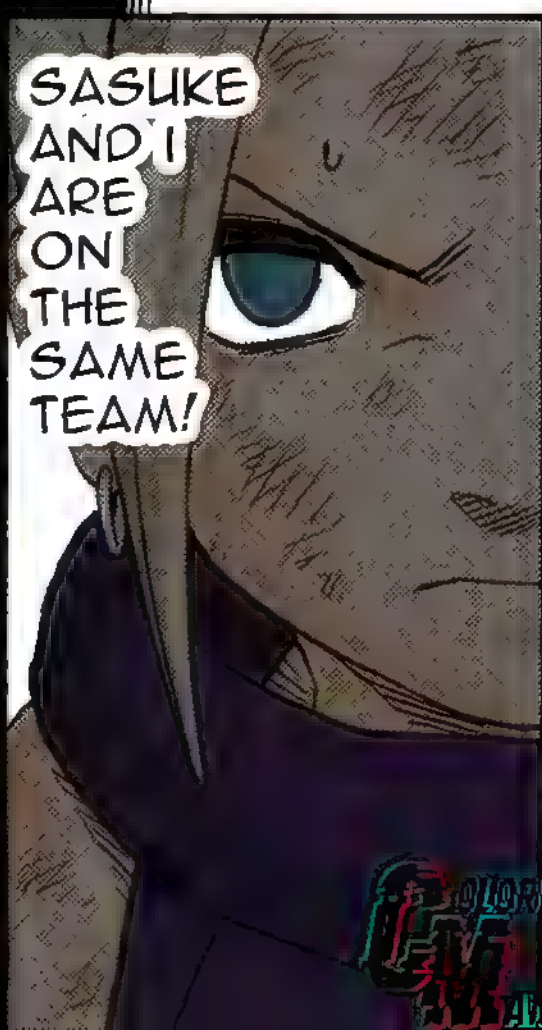
WHAT
ARE THEY
GETTING SO
INTENSE
ABOUT?!



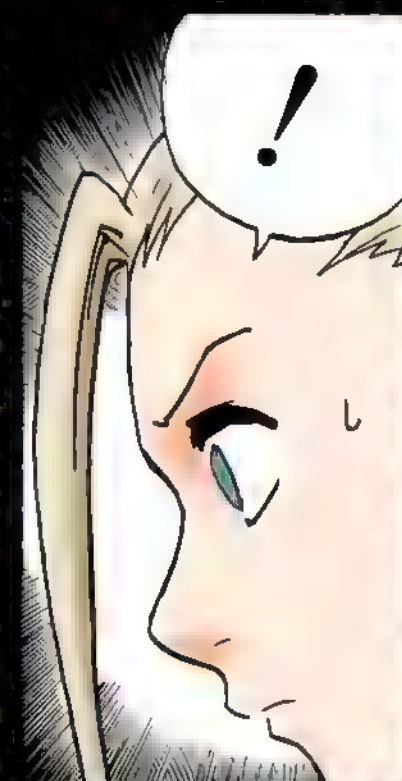
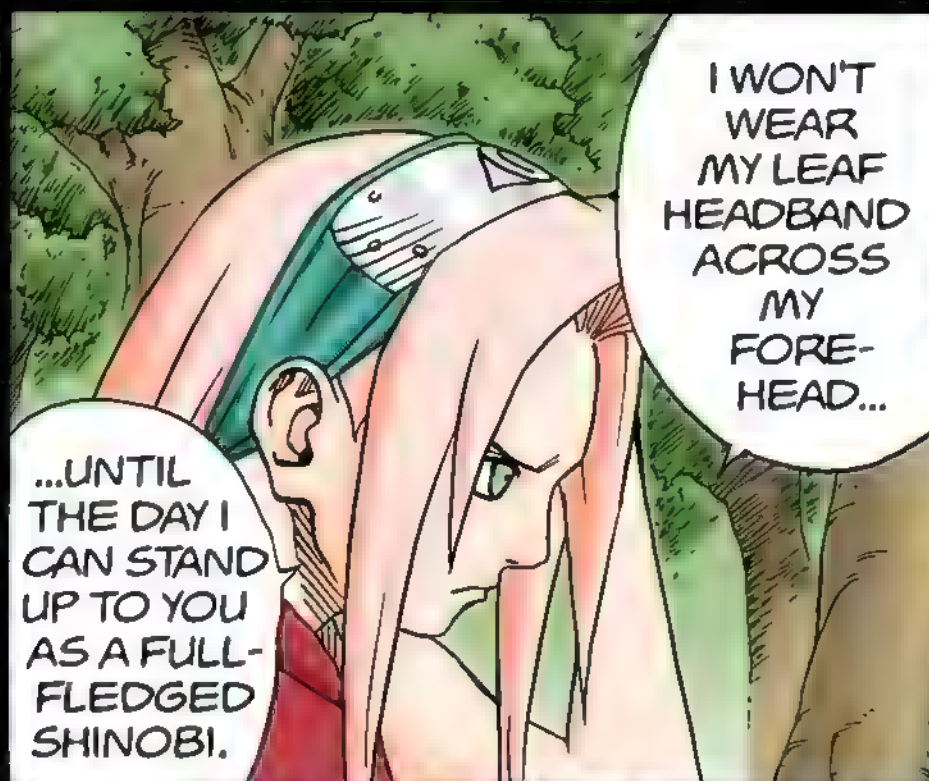
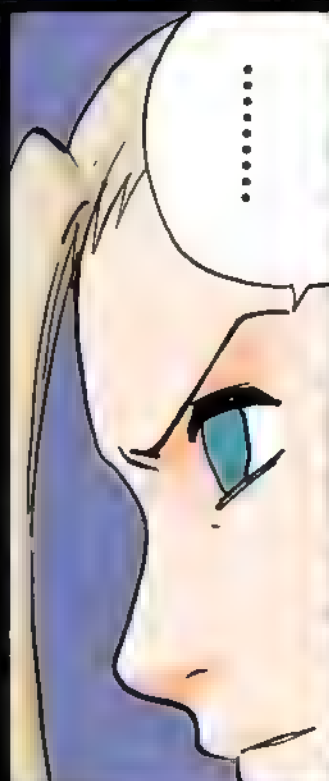
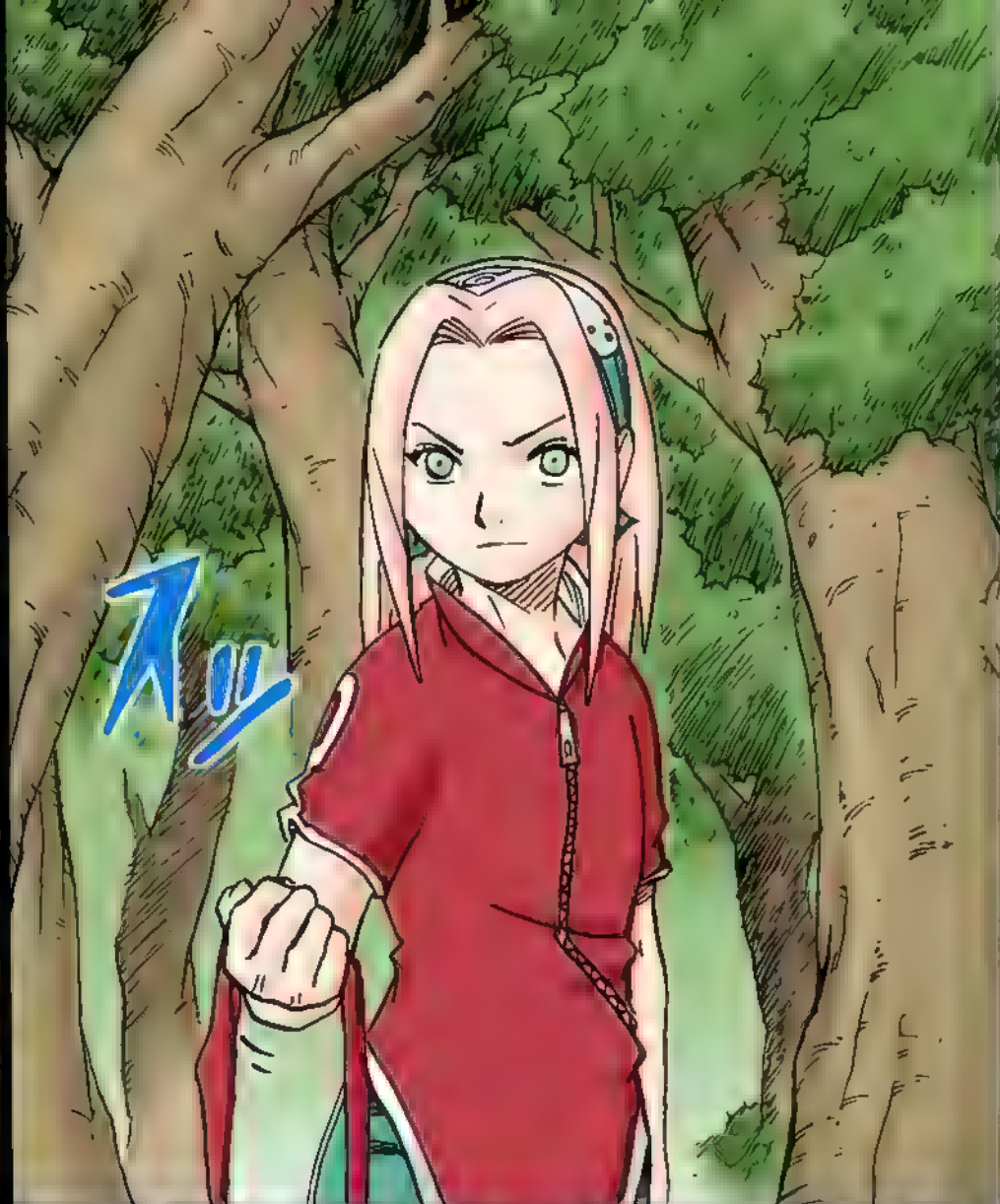
...I DON'T
CARE WHAT
IT TAKES.
YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO
SHOW ME
UP!!

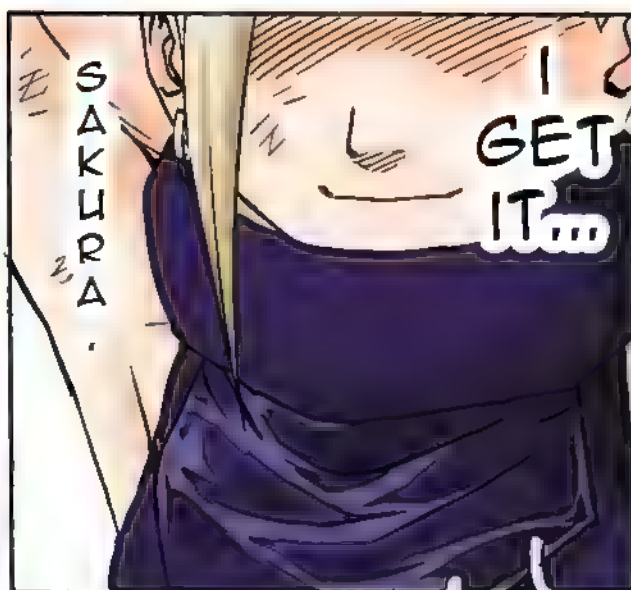
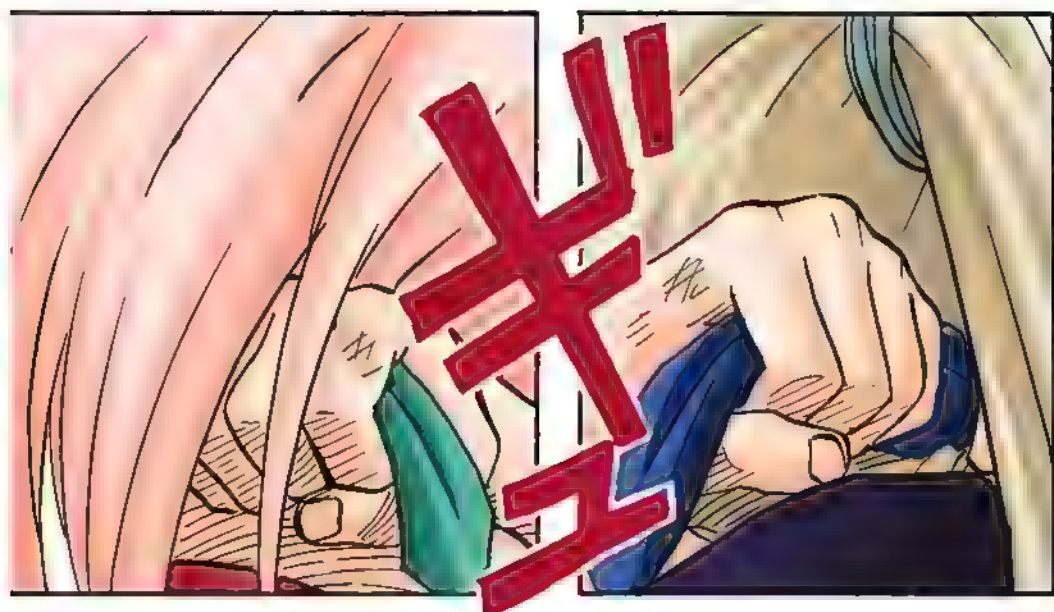
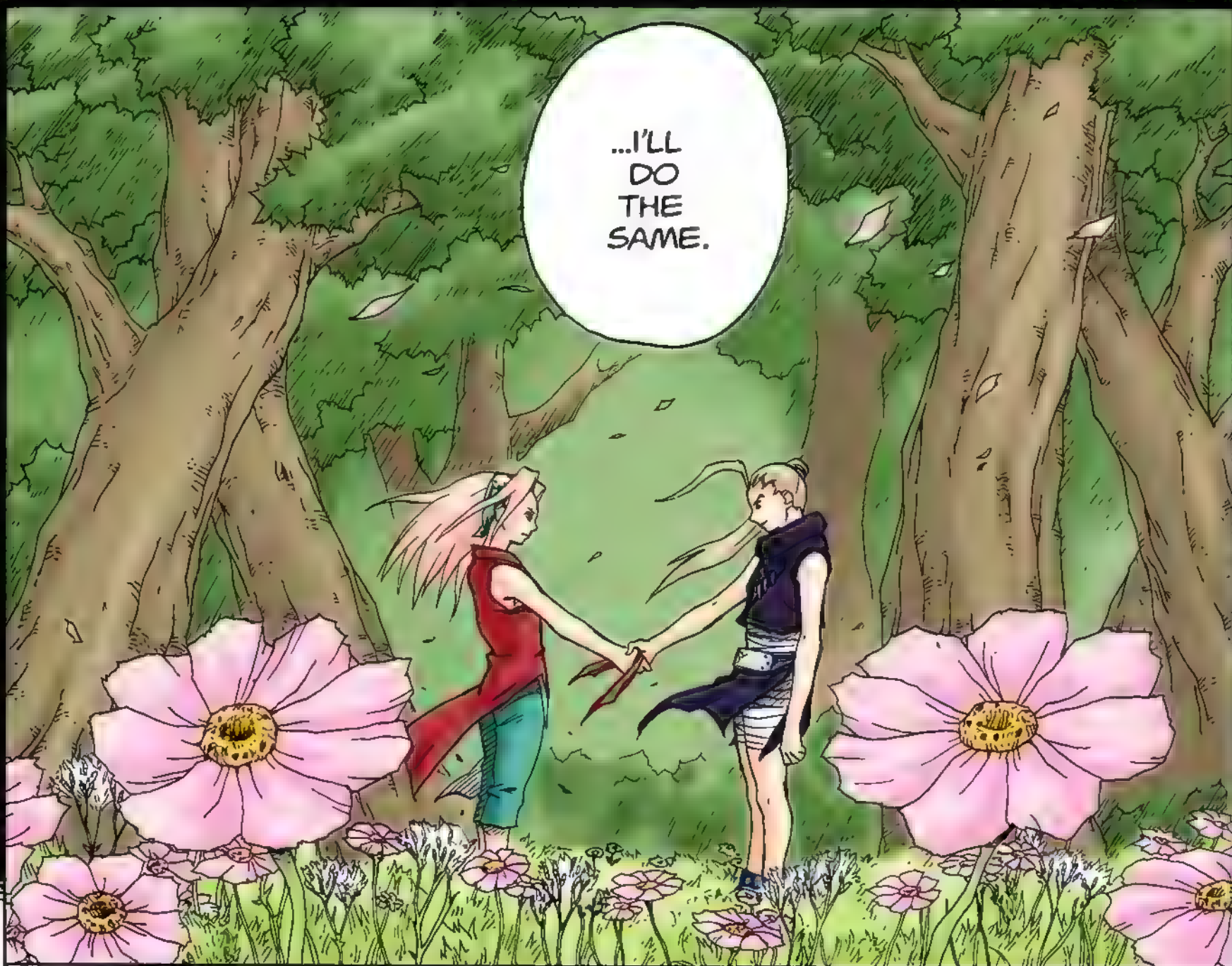
THAT
GOES
DOUBLE
FOR ME,
SASURA...

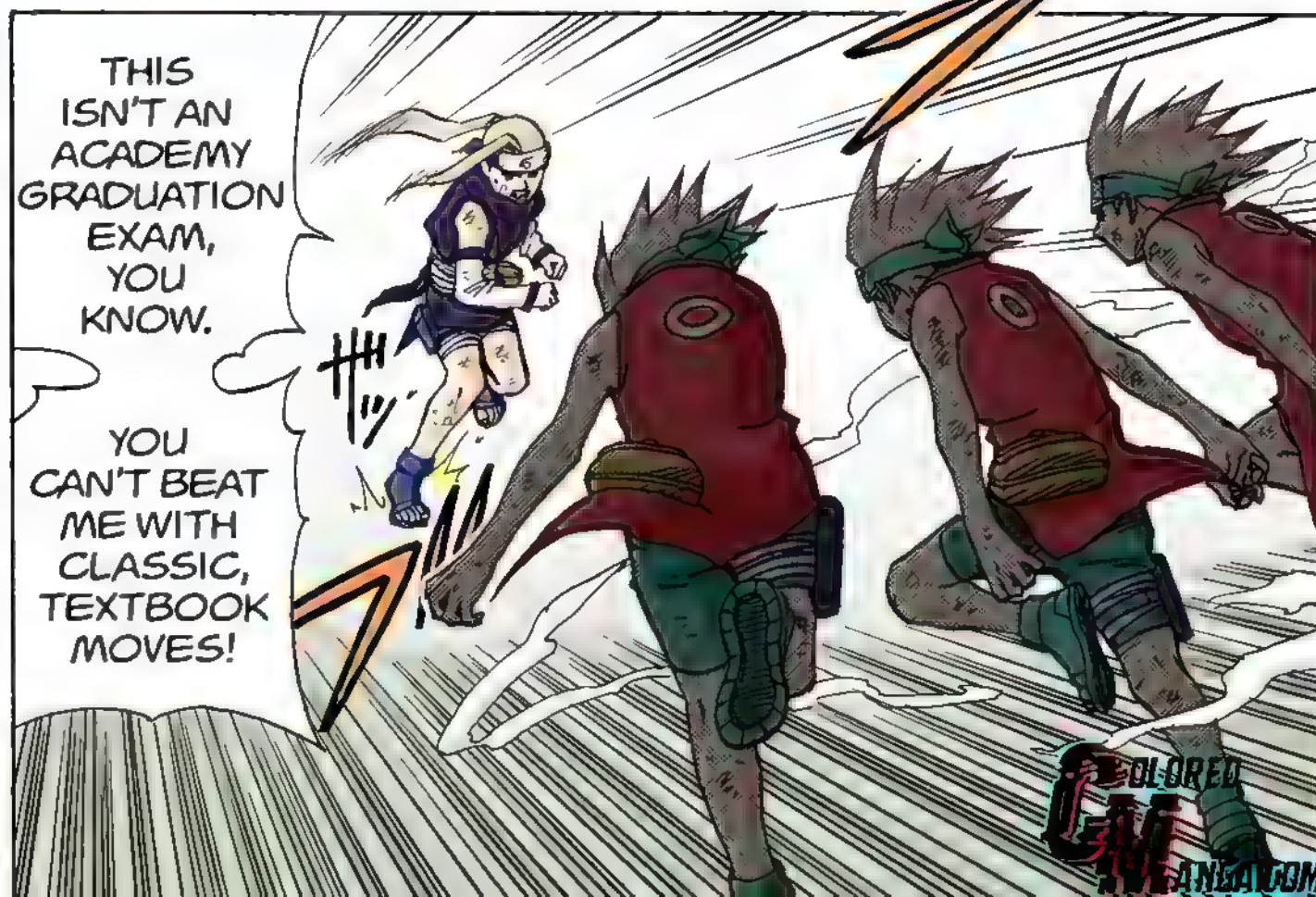
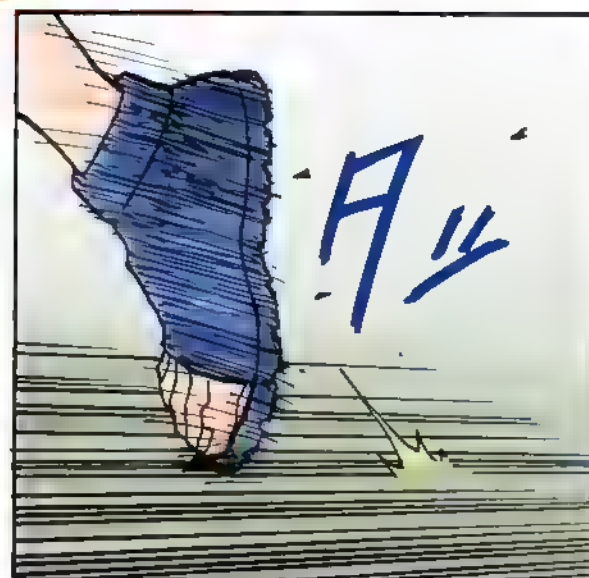
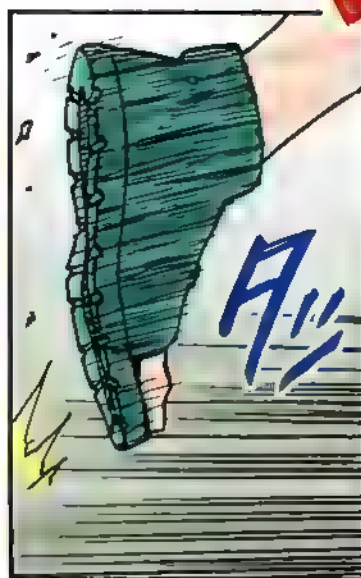
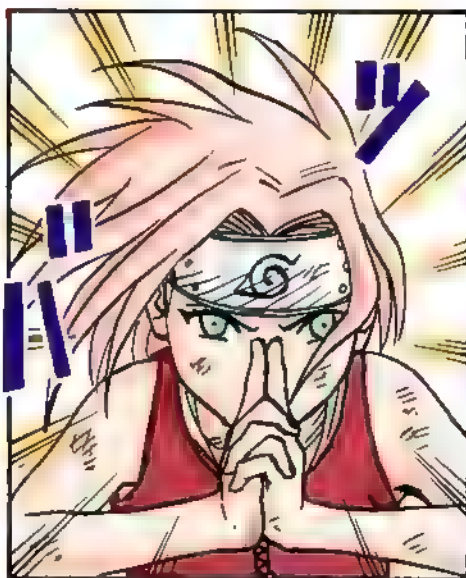
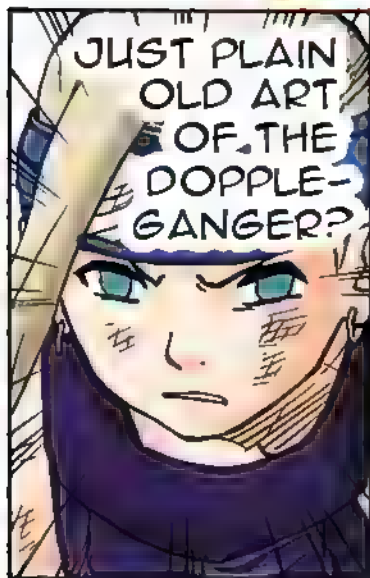
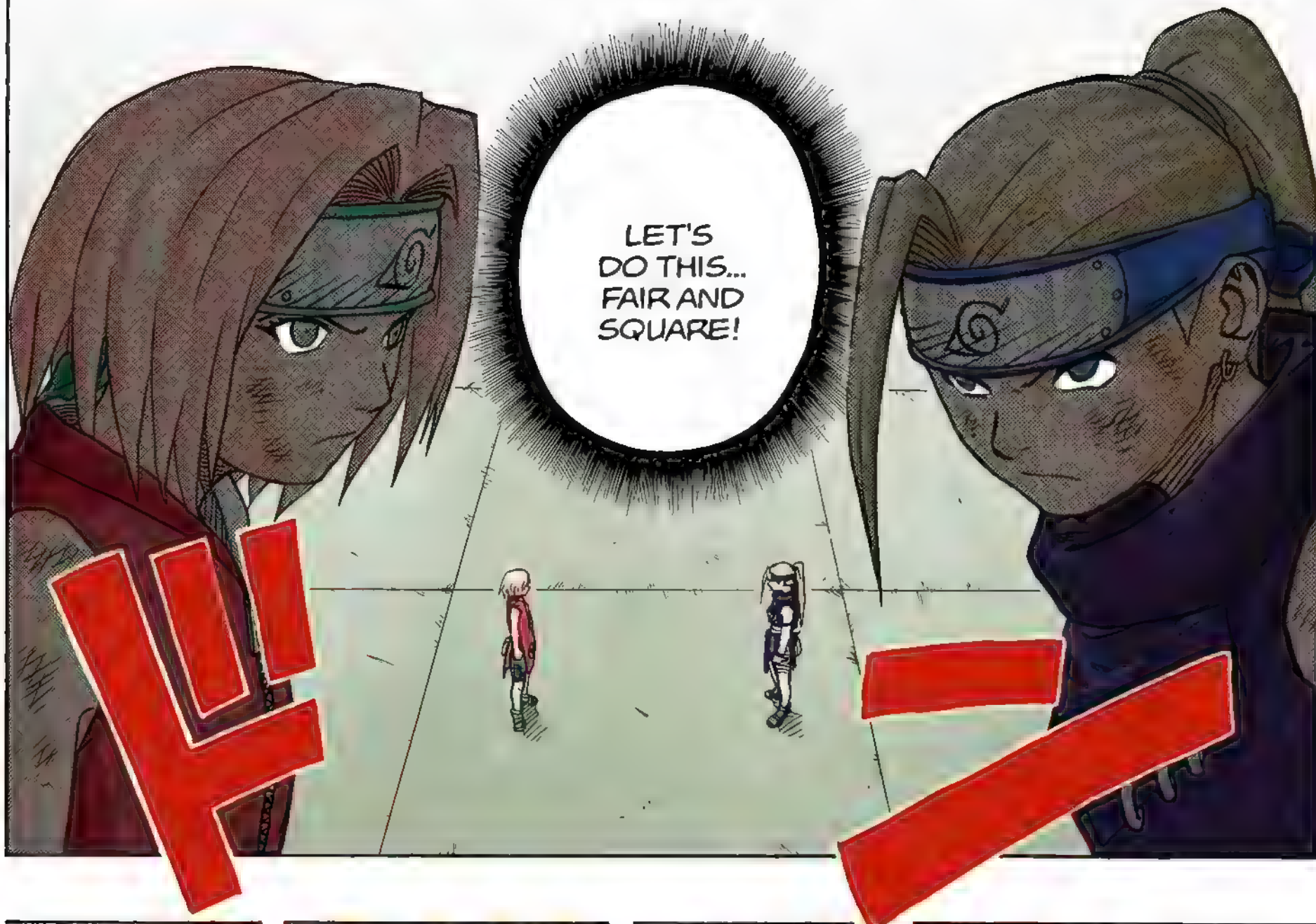
SO, INO...
YOU'LL
NEVER
BEAT ME
NOW.

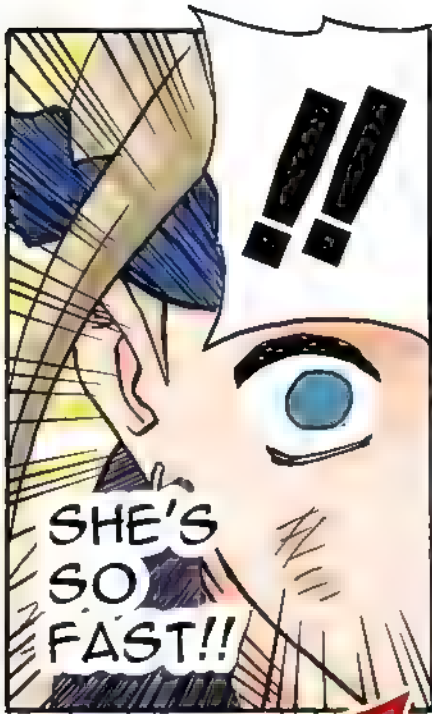


SASUKE
AND I
ARE
ON
THE
SAME
TEAM!

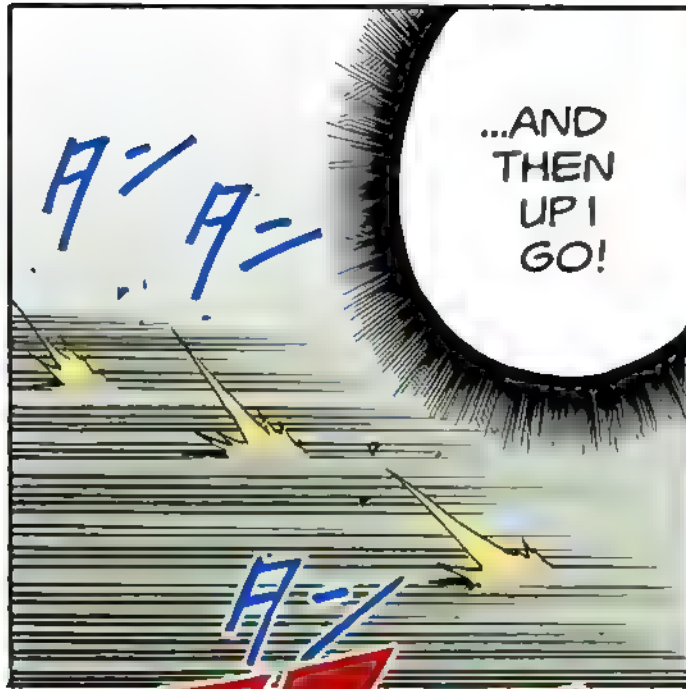








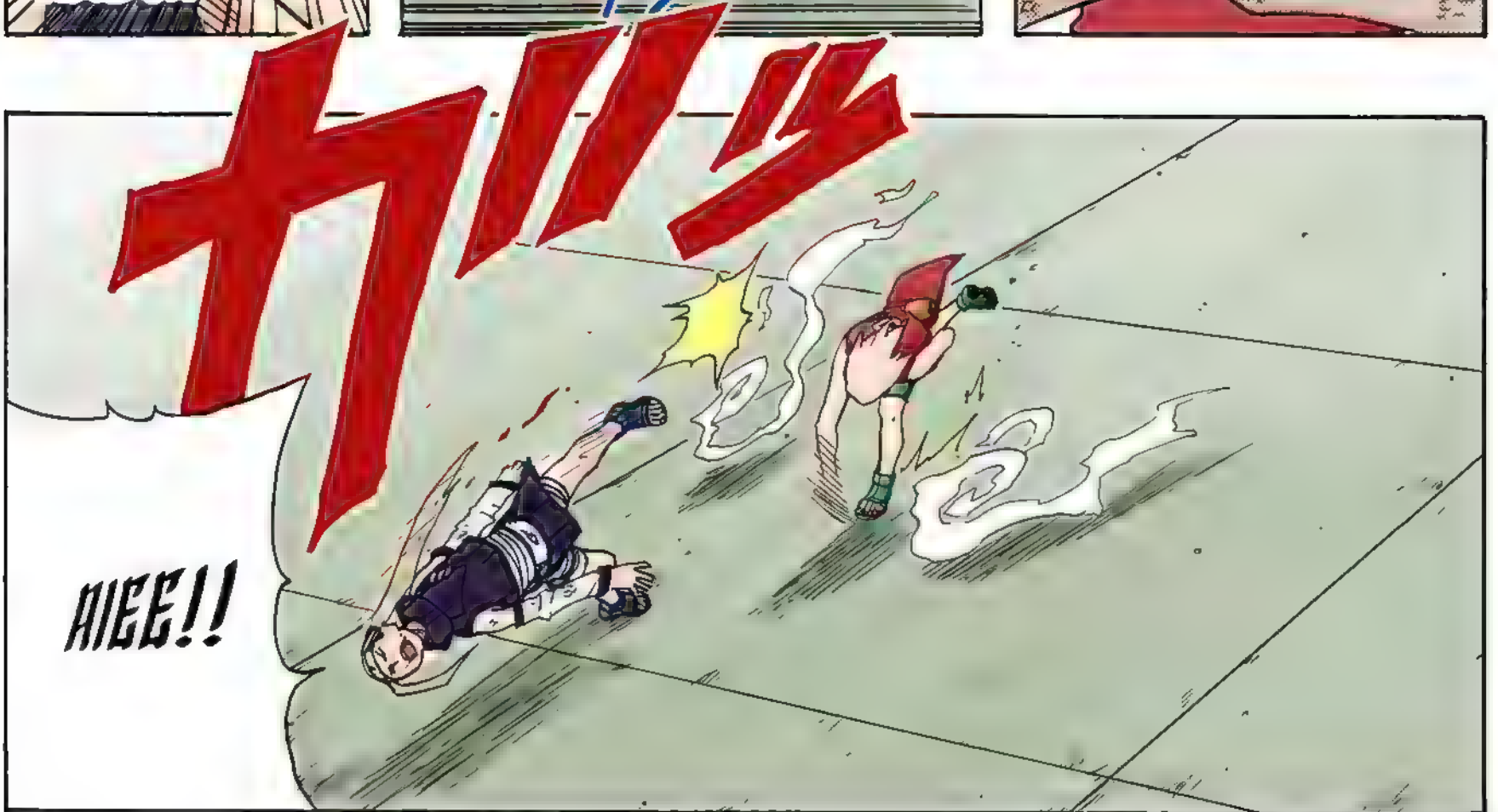
SHE'S
SO
FAST!!



...AND
THEN
UP I
GO!



I'LL
FOCUS
ALL OF
MY CHAKRA
WITHIN
MY FEET.



THE
GLOVES
ARE
OFF!!

IF
THAT'S
THE WAY
YOU
WANT IT,
FINE BY
ME.



I
KNOW
YOU CAN
DO
BETTER
THAN
THIS!

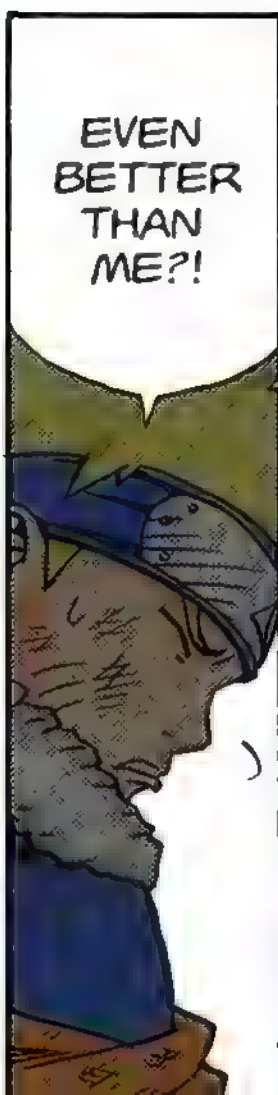
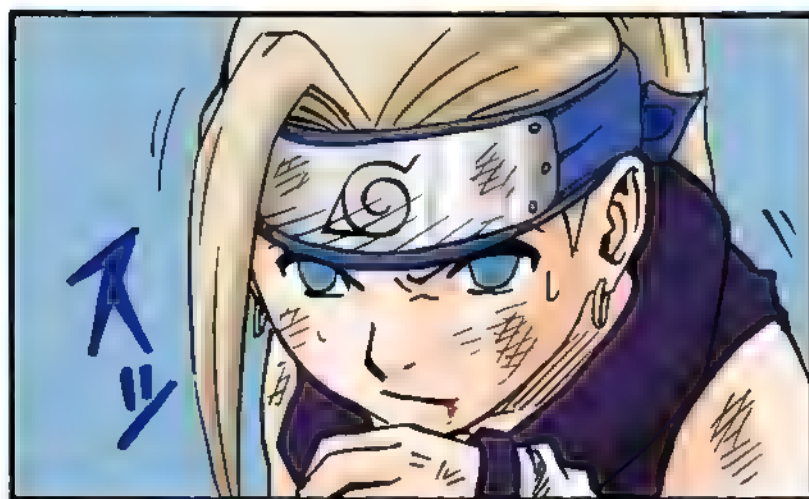
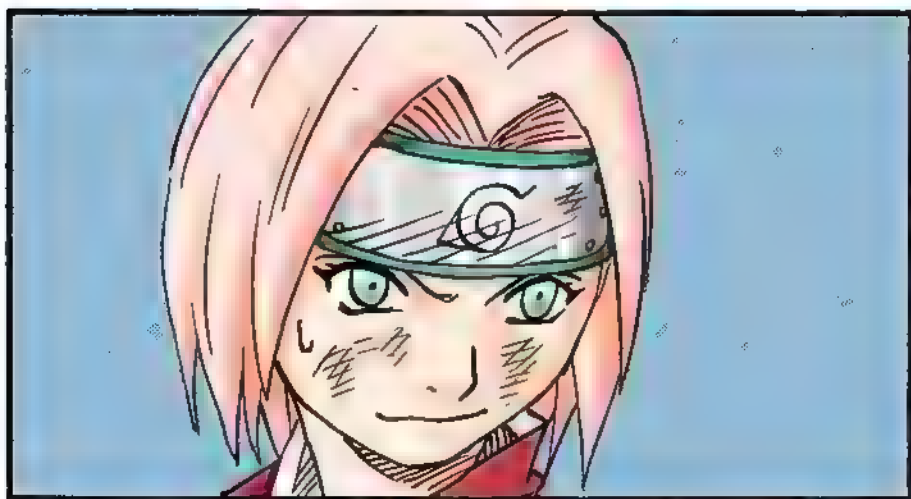
I MAY HAVE
BEEN A
CRYBABY BACK
IN THE DAY...
BUT WHO'S
CRYING NOW?
COME ON, INO...
STOP HOLDING
BACK.

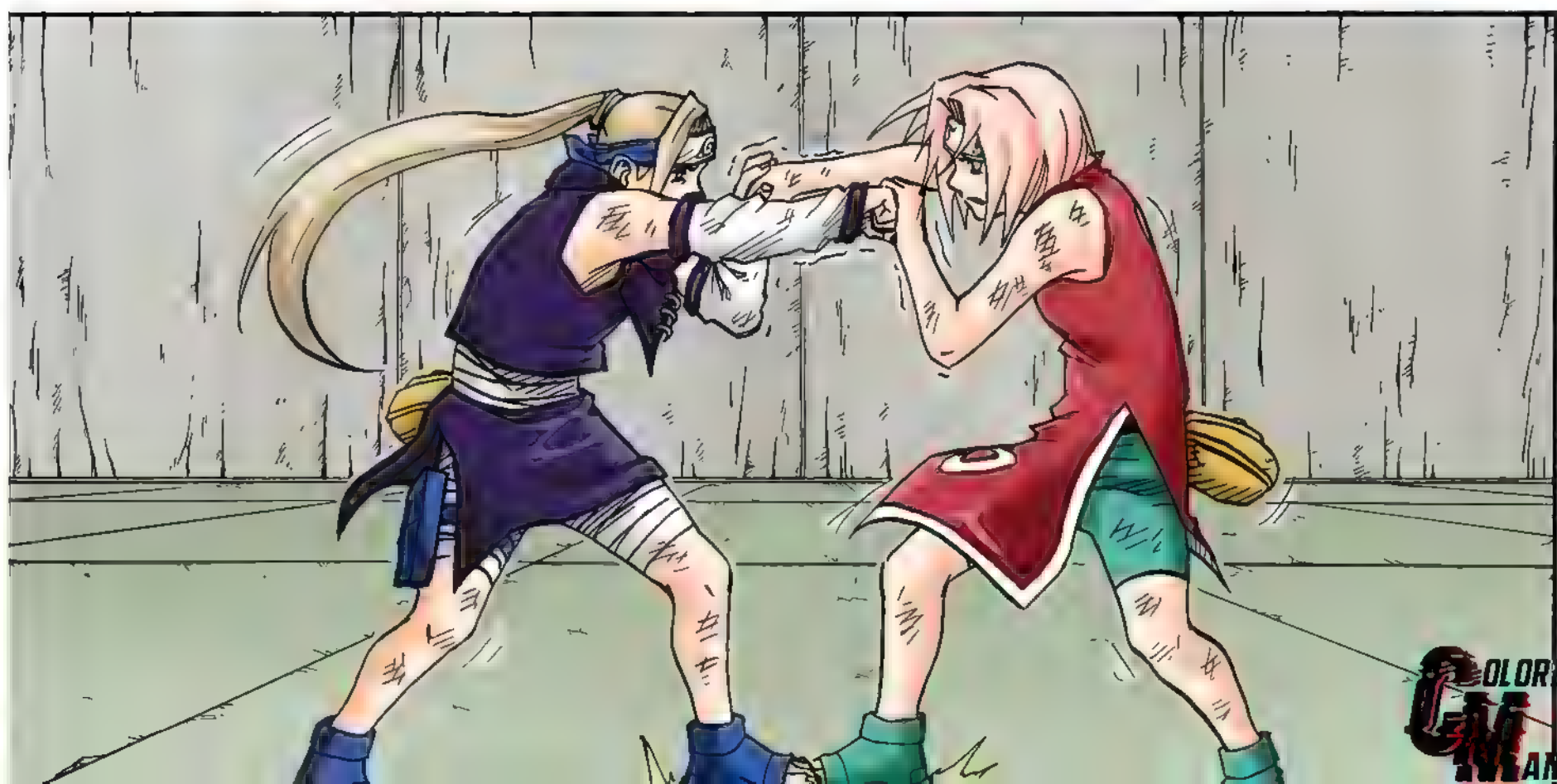
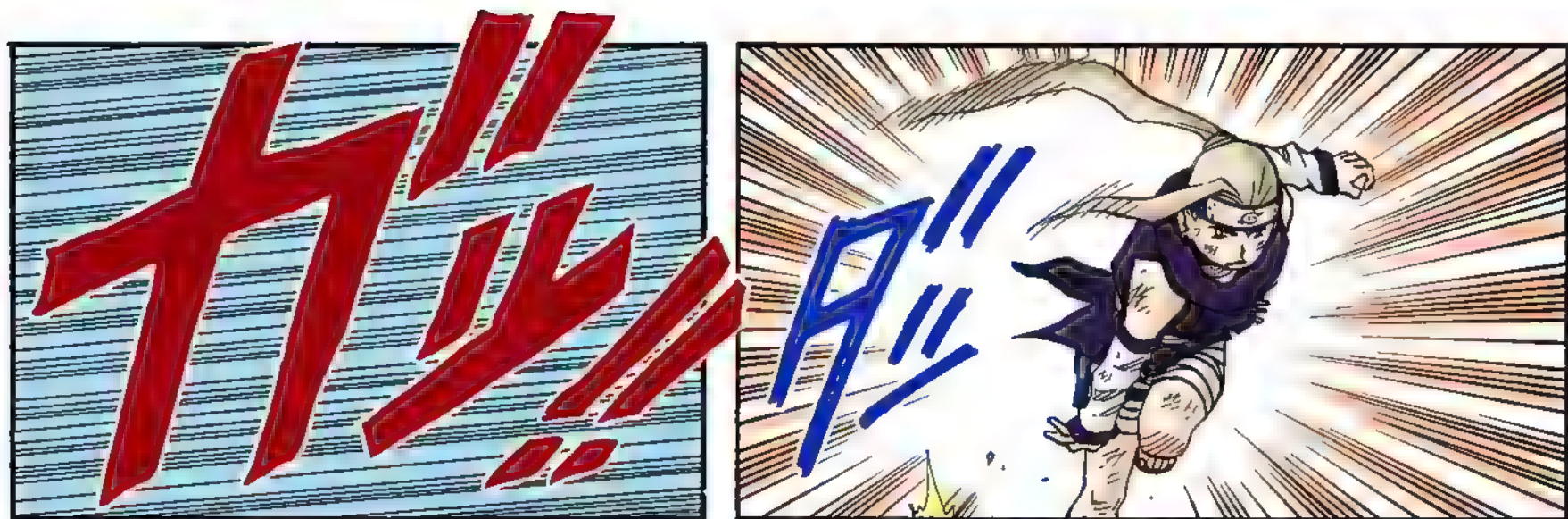
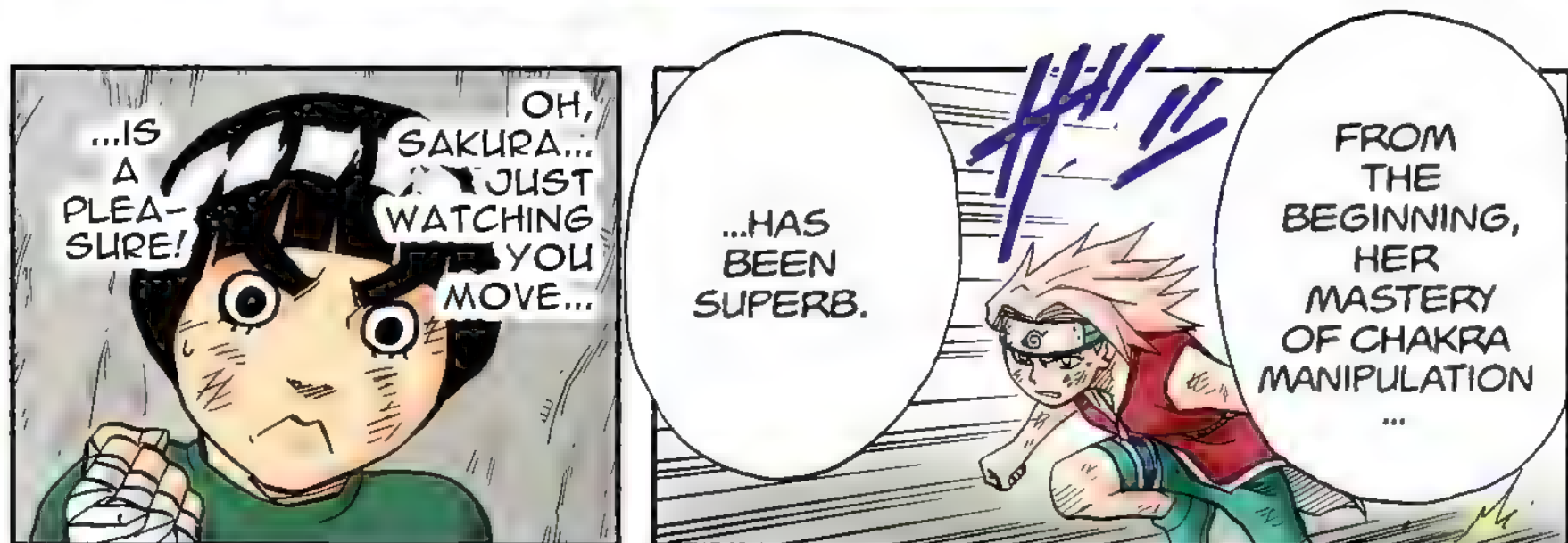


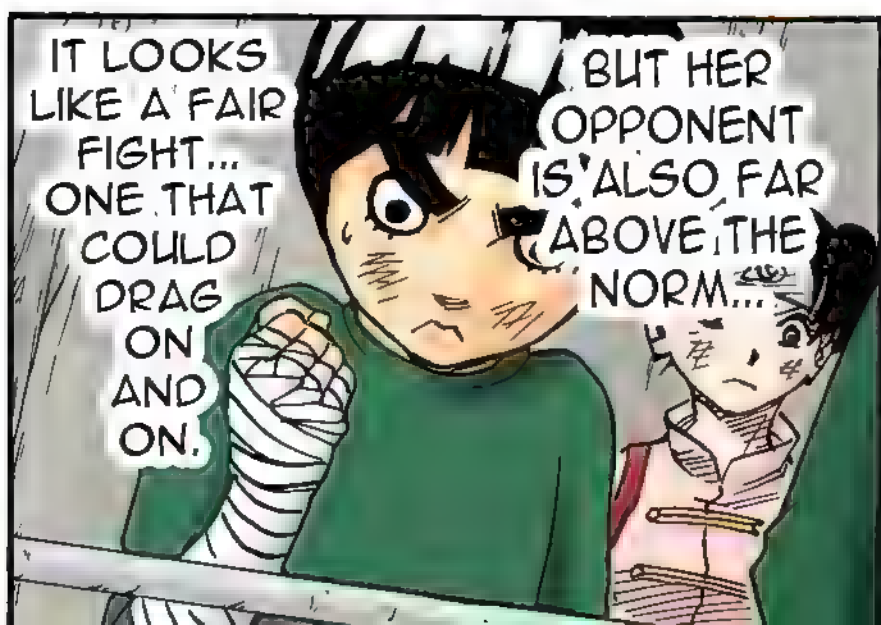
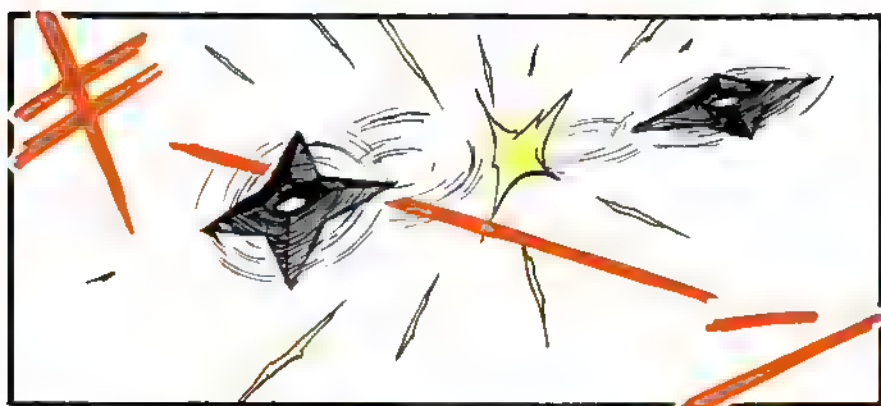
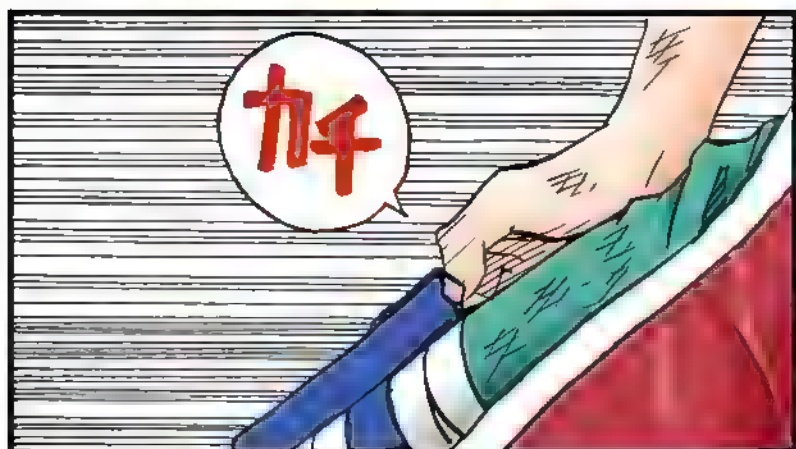
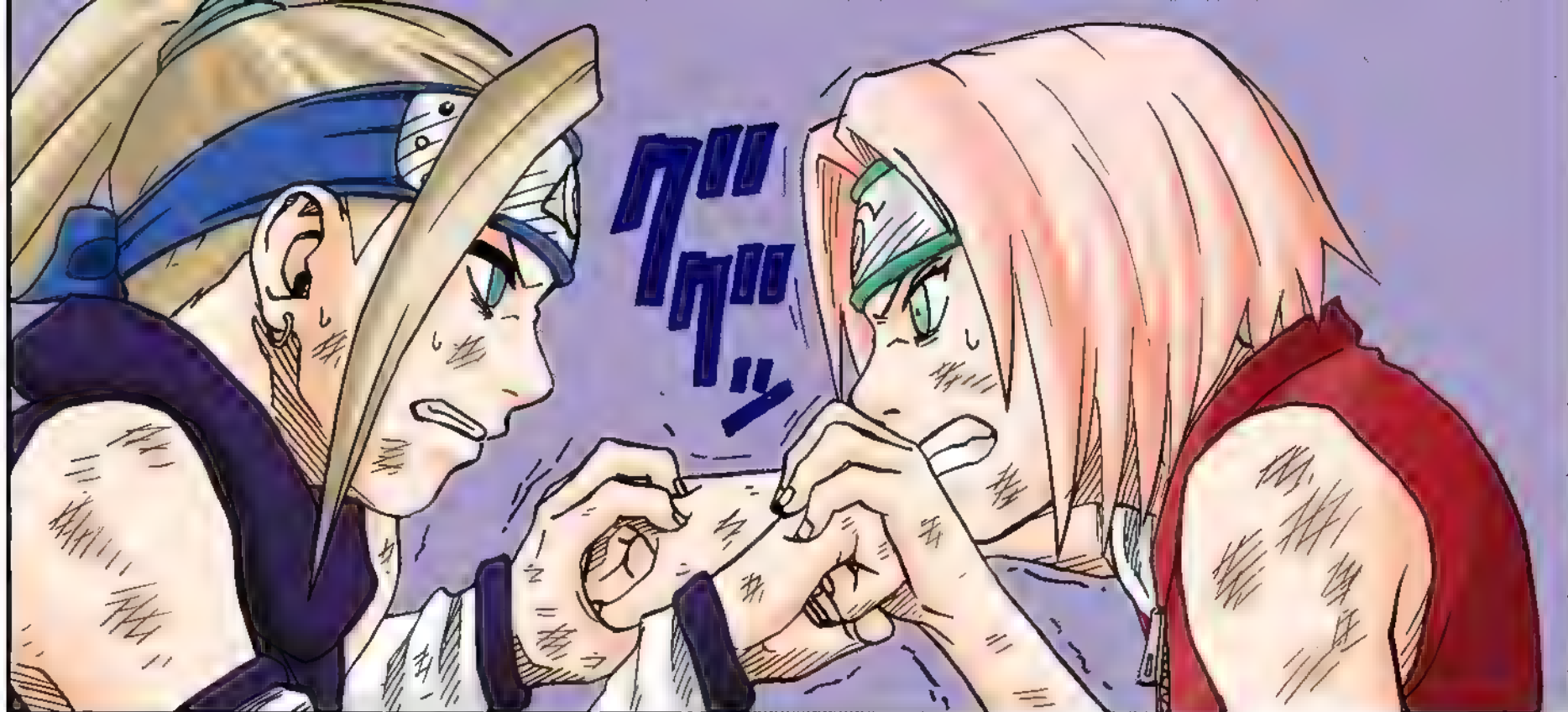


ナンバー
72: RIVALS!!





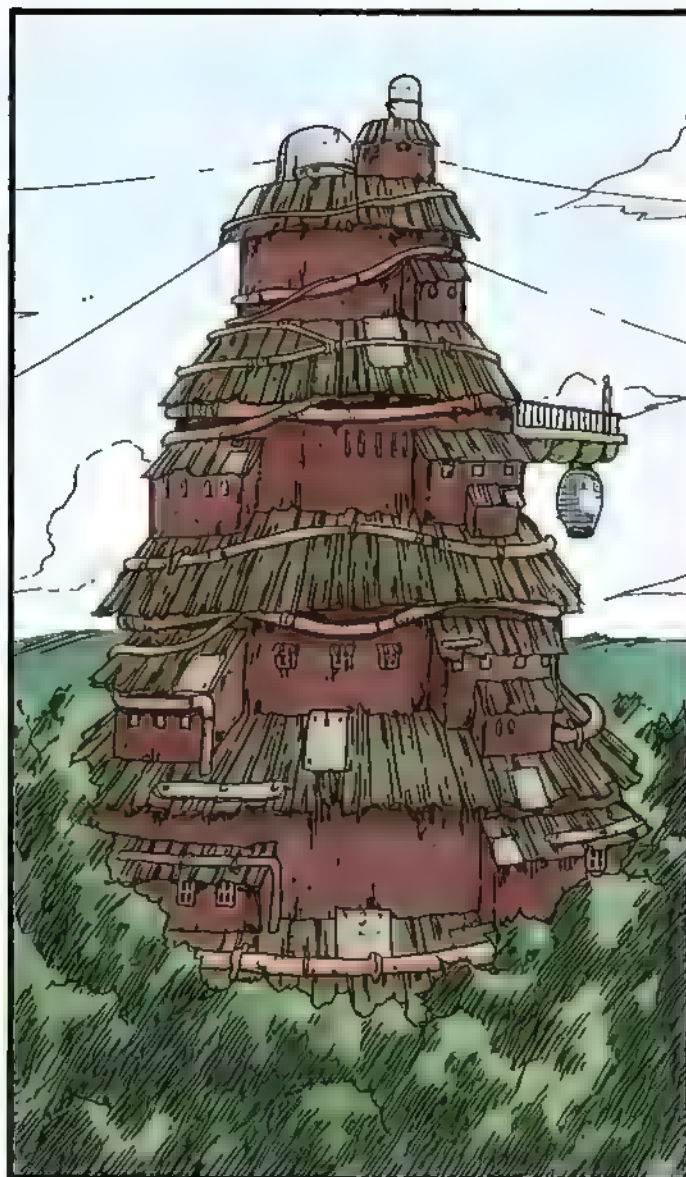
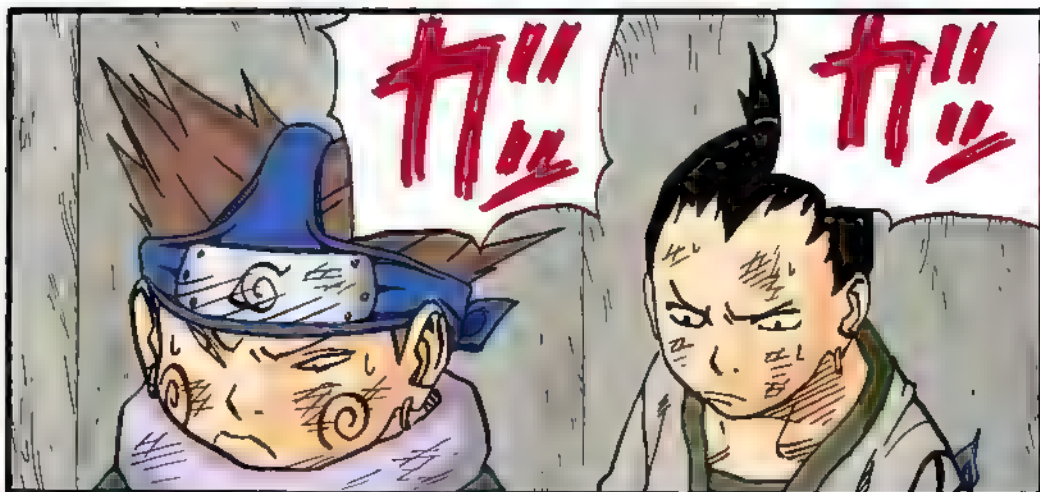




IT LOOKS
LIKE A FAIR
FIGHT...
ONE THAT
COULD
DRAG
ON
AND ON.

BUT HER
OPPONENT
IS ALSO FAR
ABOVE THE
NORM...





SHE
WAS SUCH
A BABY...
WHEN
DID SHE
TURN
SO
TOUGH?!

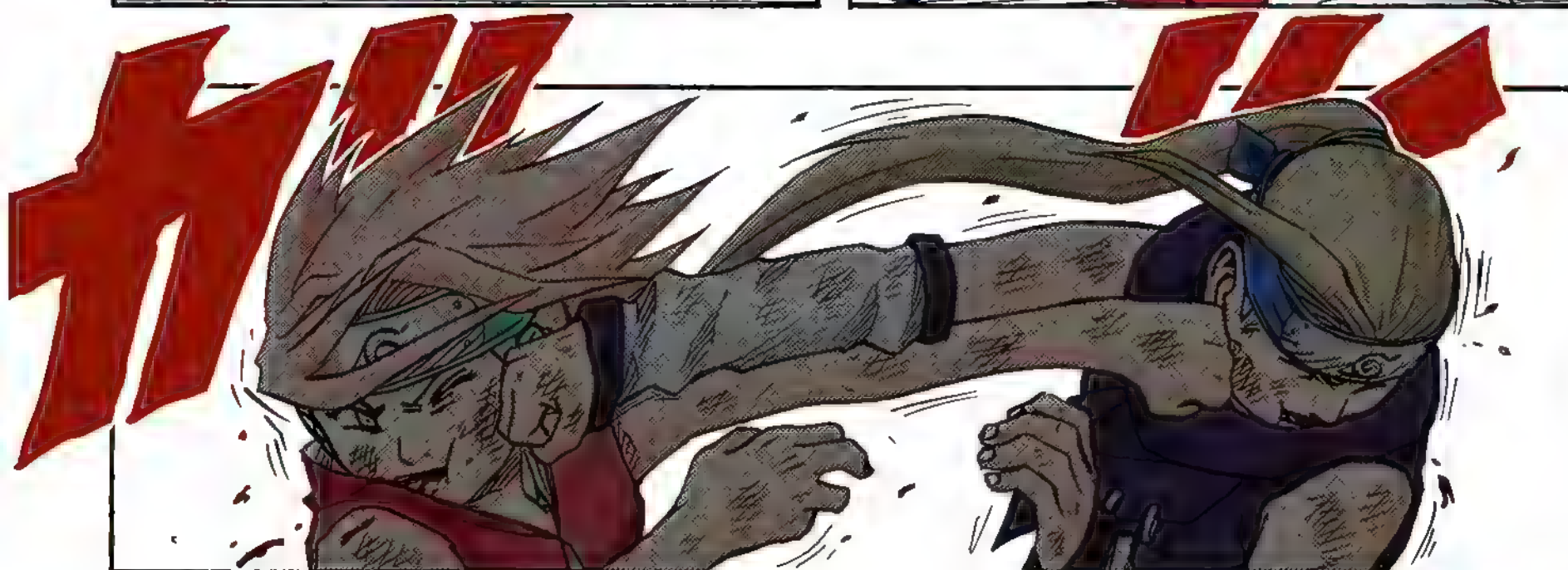


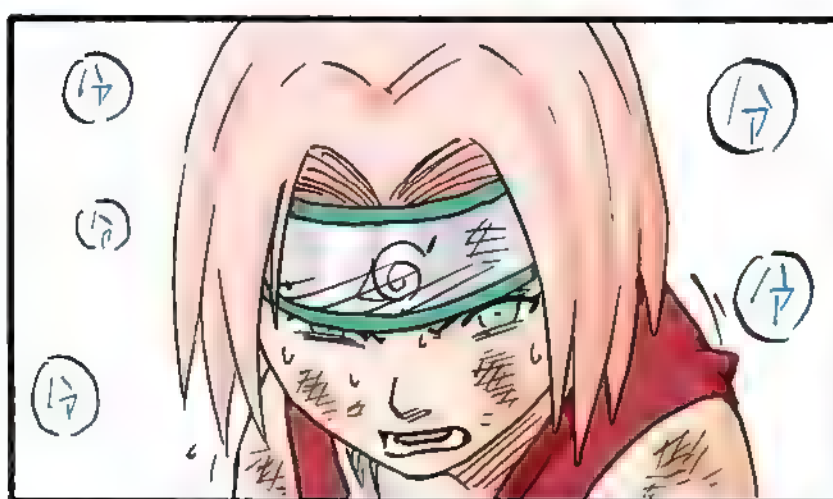
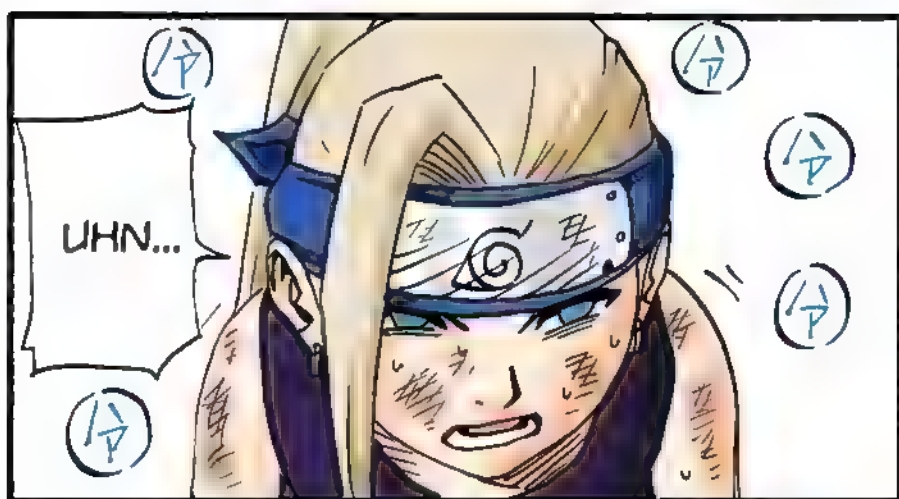
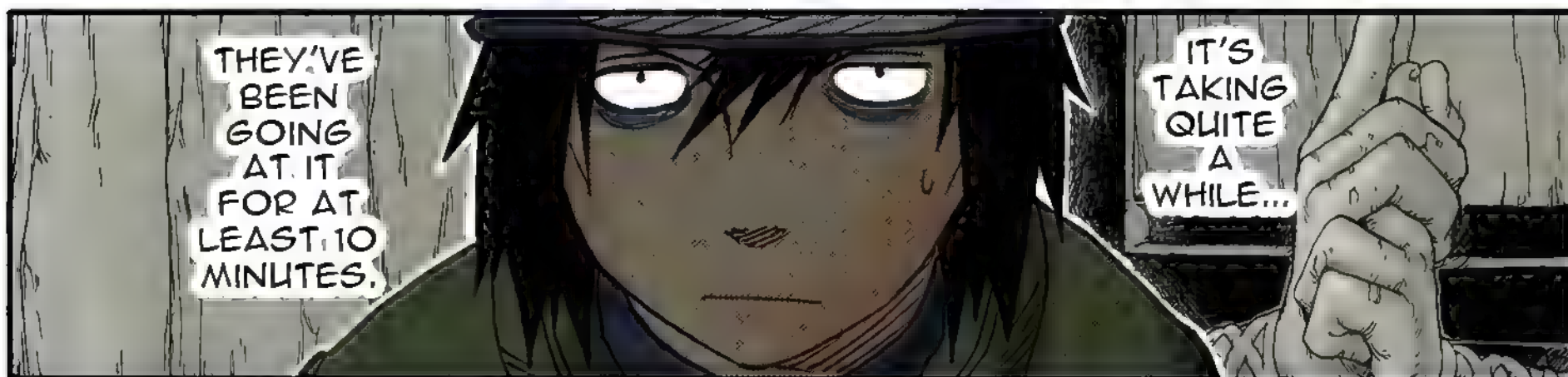
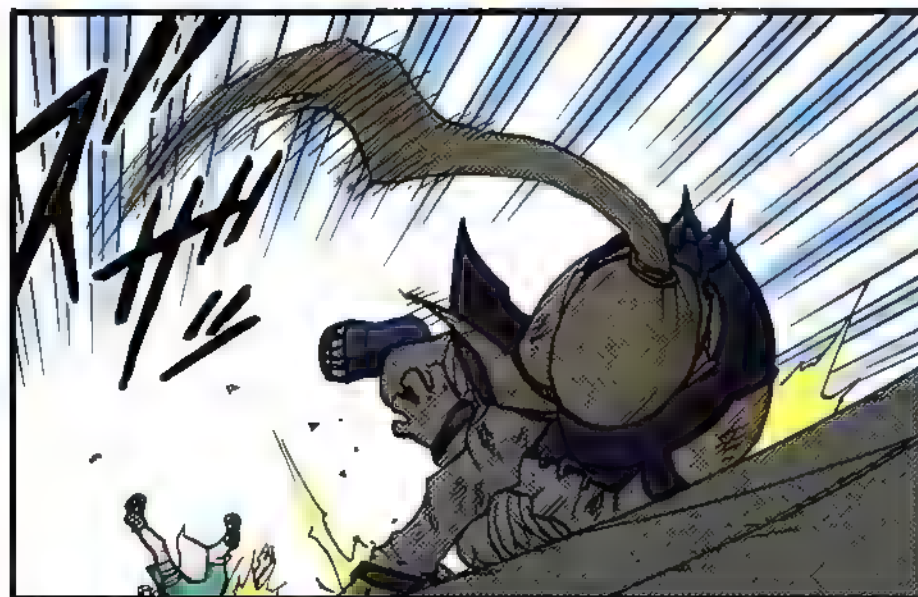
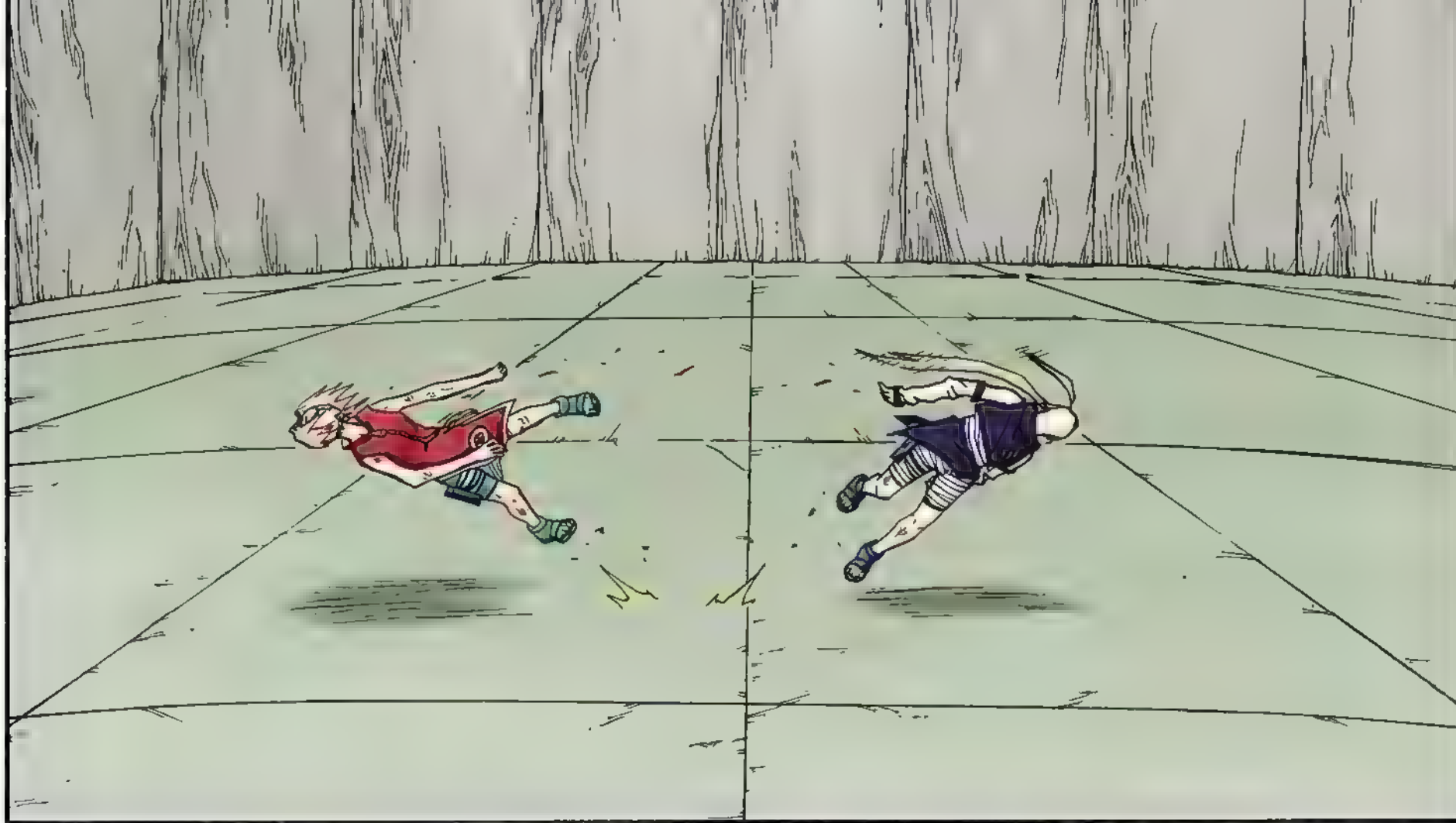
YOU...!



I
CAN!

I
CAN
DO
THIS!

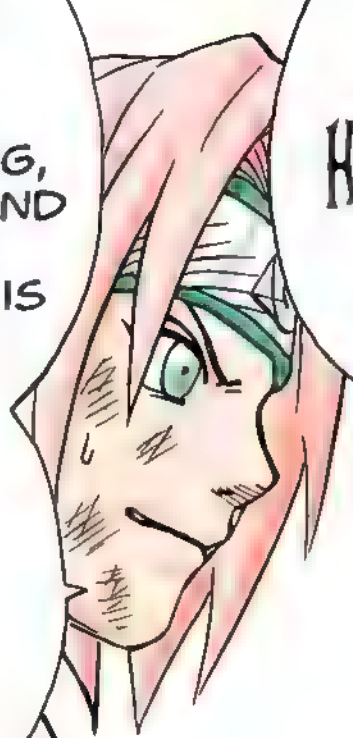




YOU'RE RIGHT. THE MAGNITUDE OF YOUR OBSESSION WITH YOUR LONG, FLOWING HAIR AND SUPERFICIAL APPEARANCES IS PEERLESS...

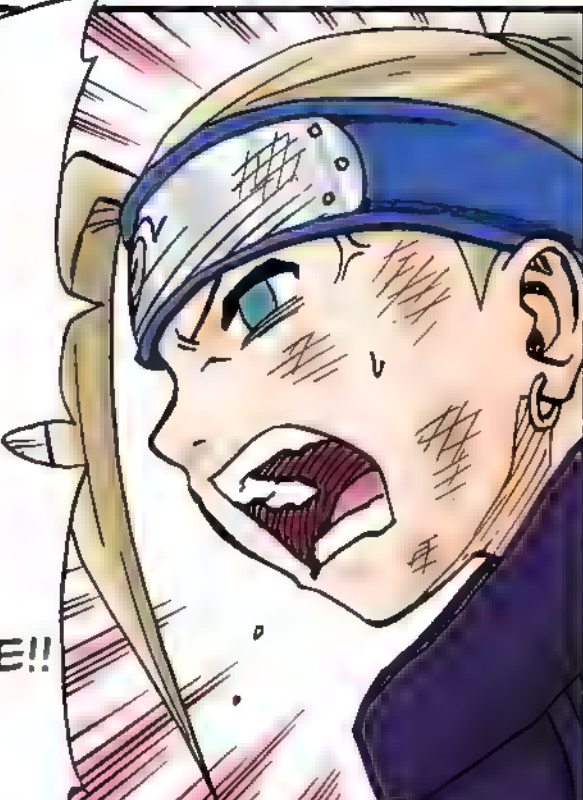
HMPH ...

I'M JUST NO MATCH FOR YOU!



YOU CAN'T BE MY EQUAL!

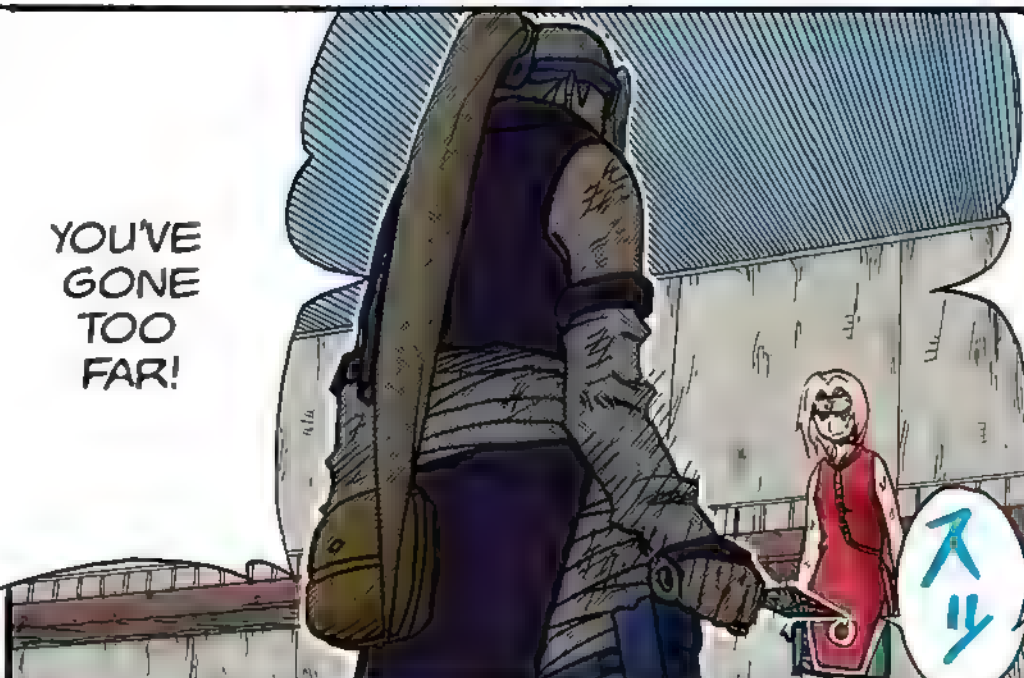
IT'S UNTHINKABLE!!



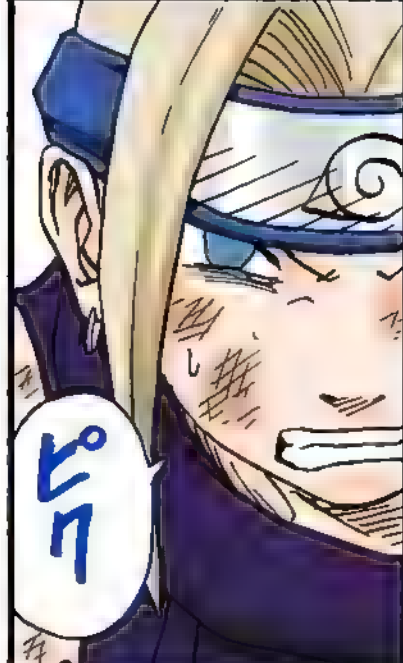
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!

MAKING FUN OF ME?!

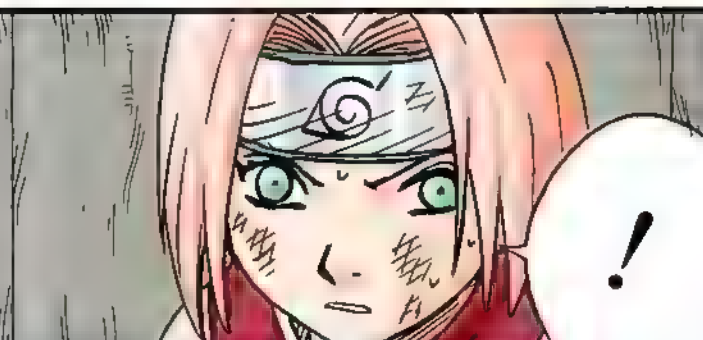
スッ



ピン



!



スッ

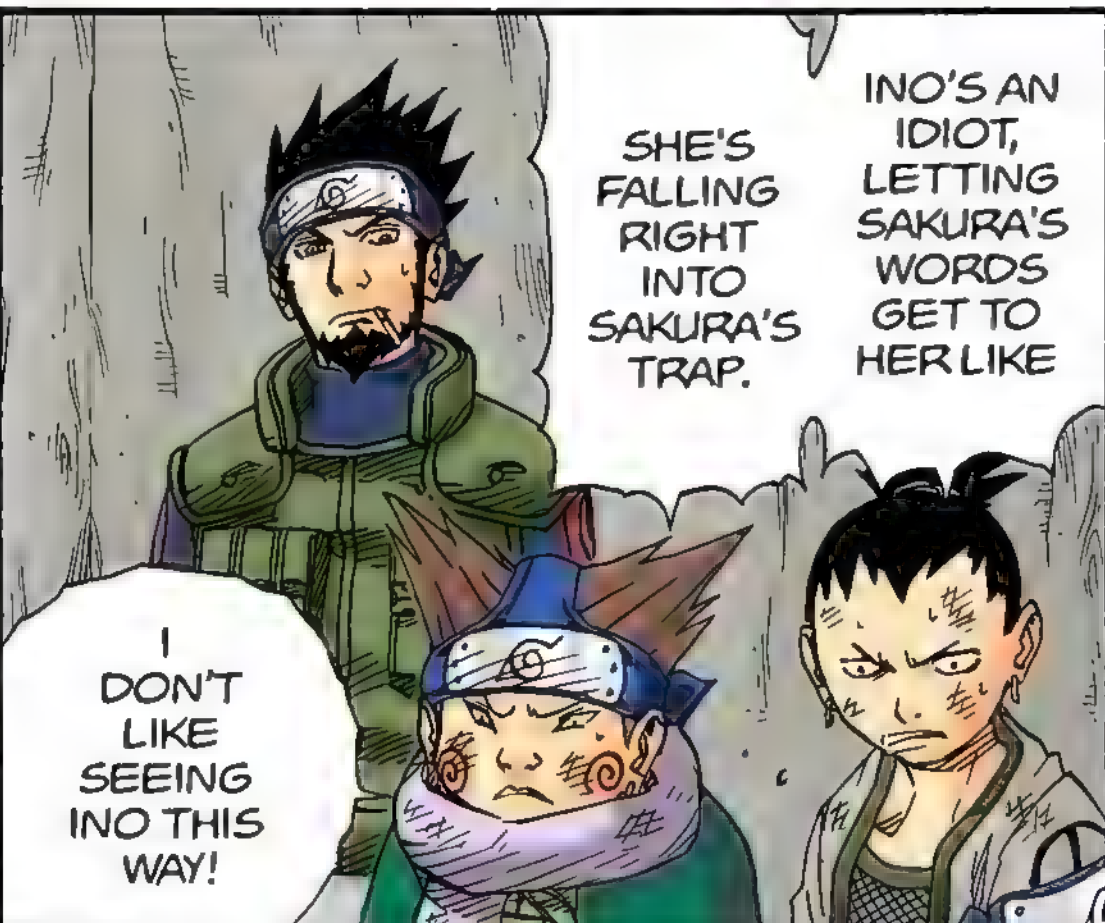
ピン

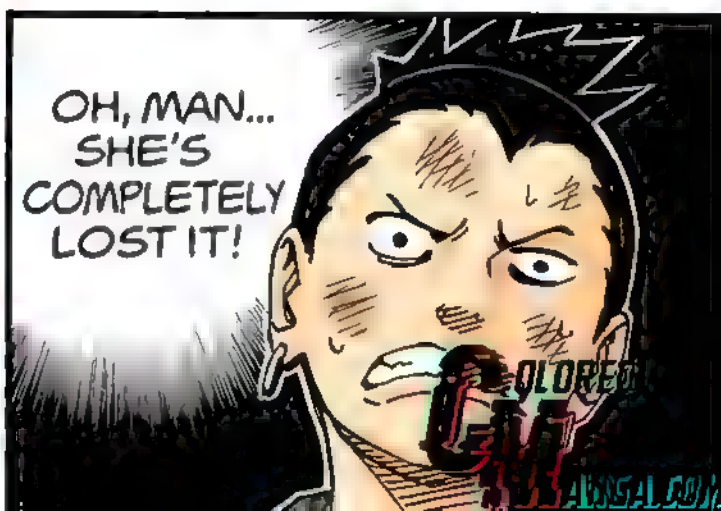
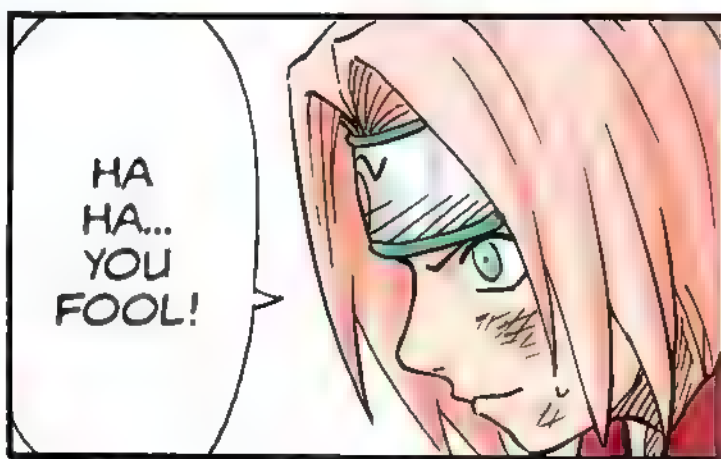


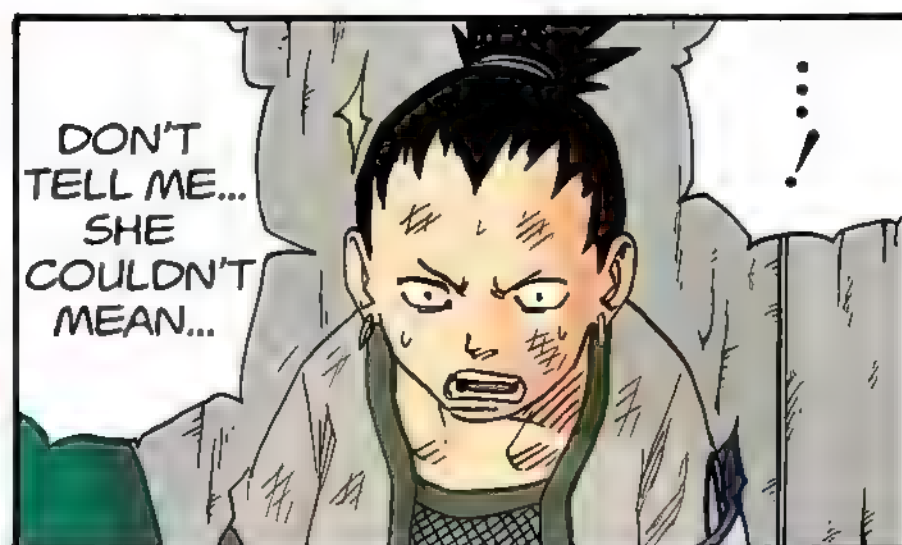
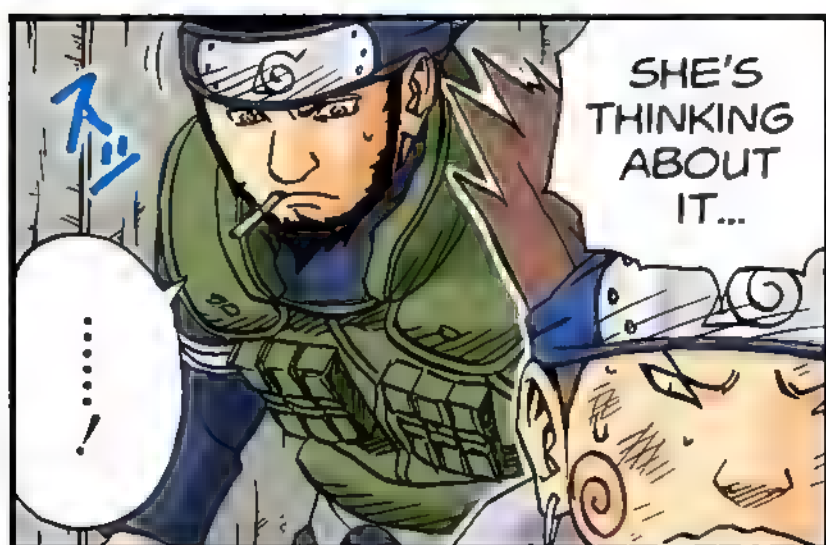
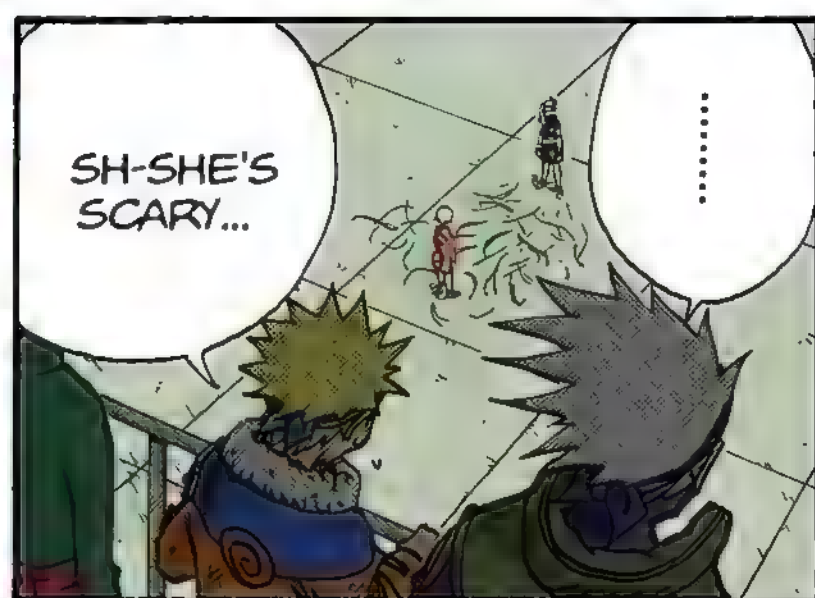
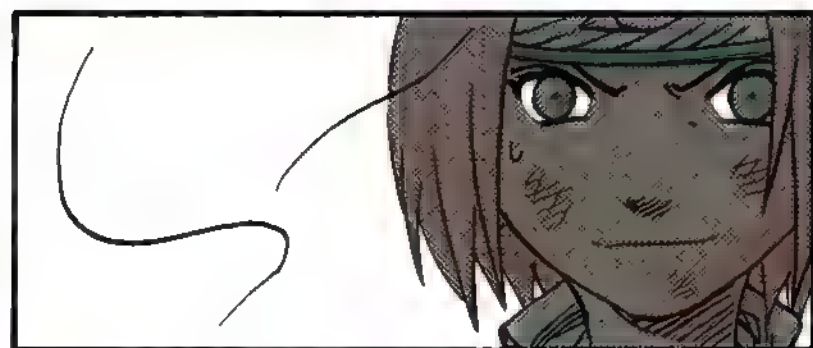
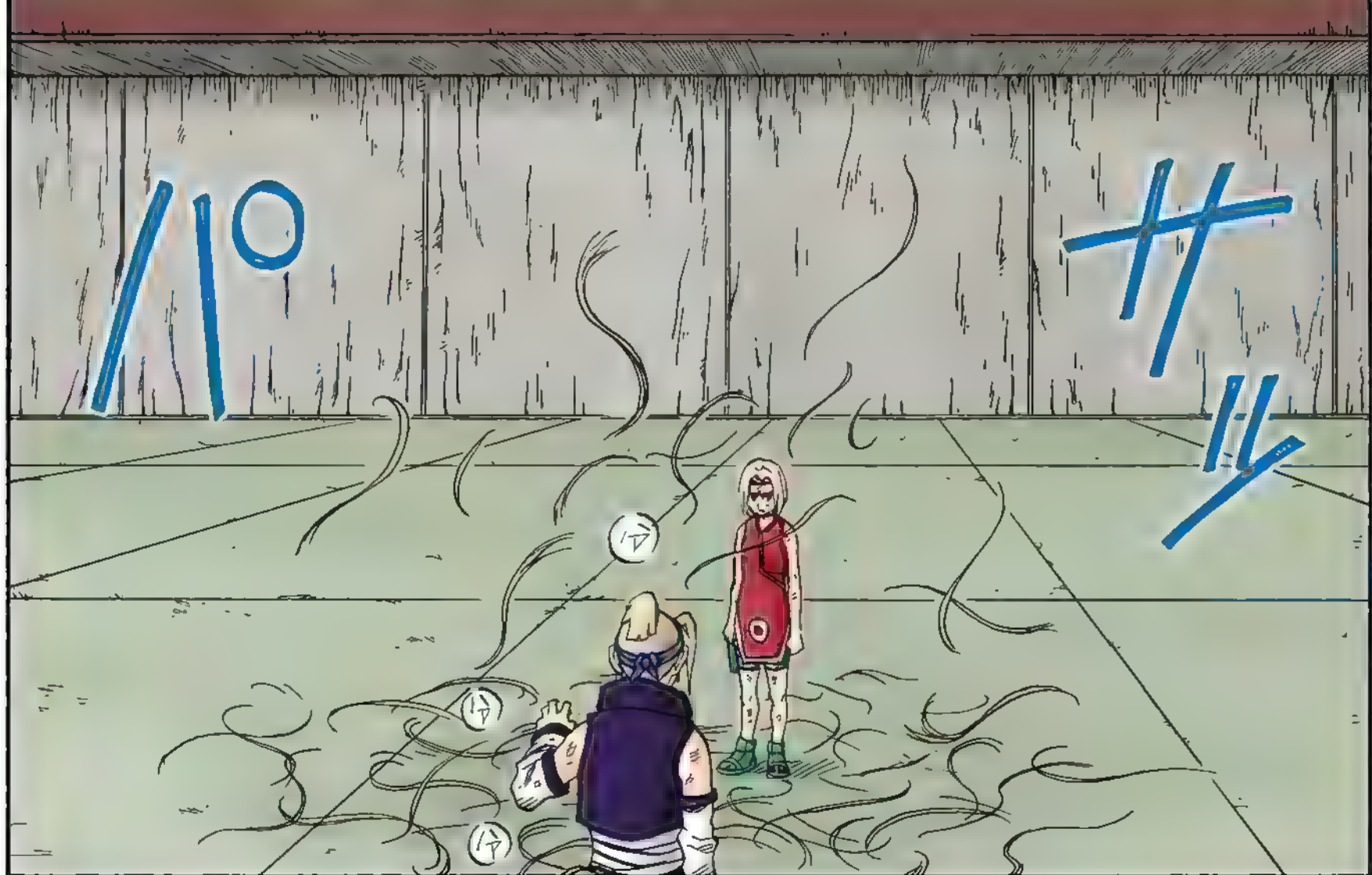
SHE'S FALLING RIGHT INTO SAKURA'S TRAP.

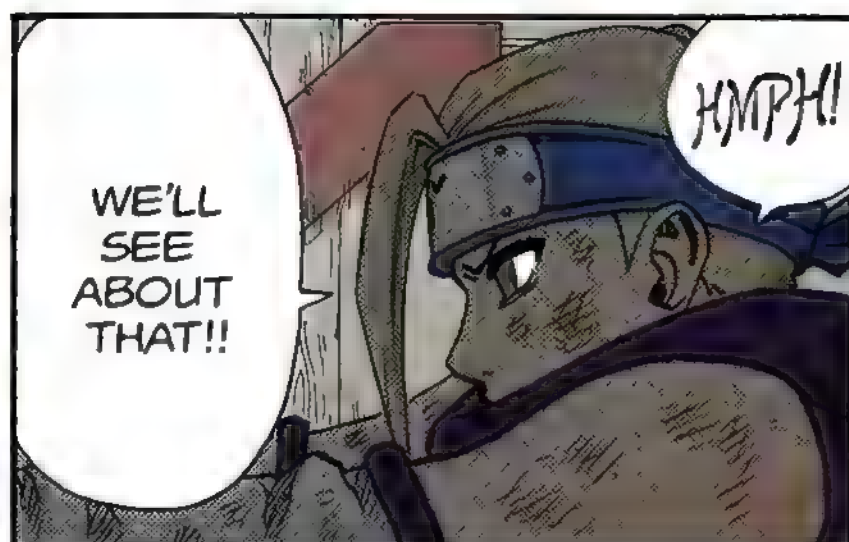
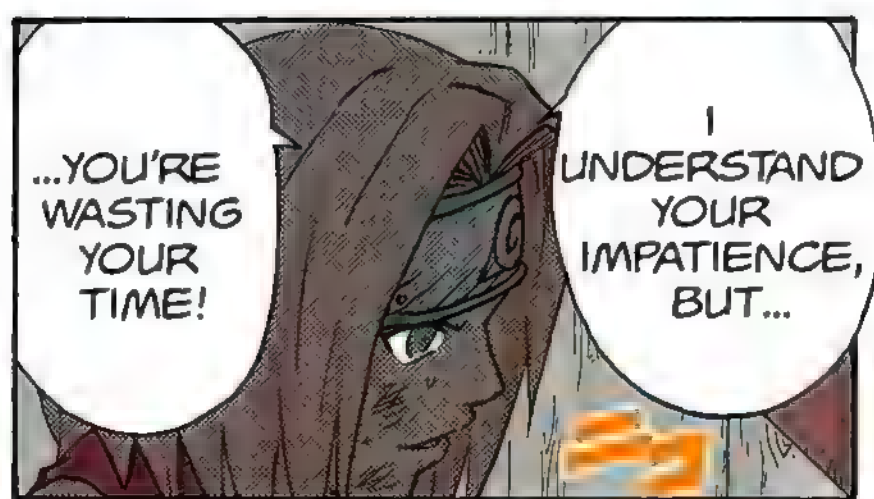
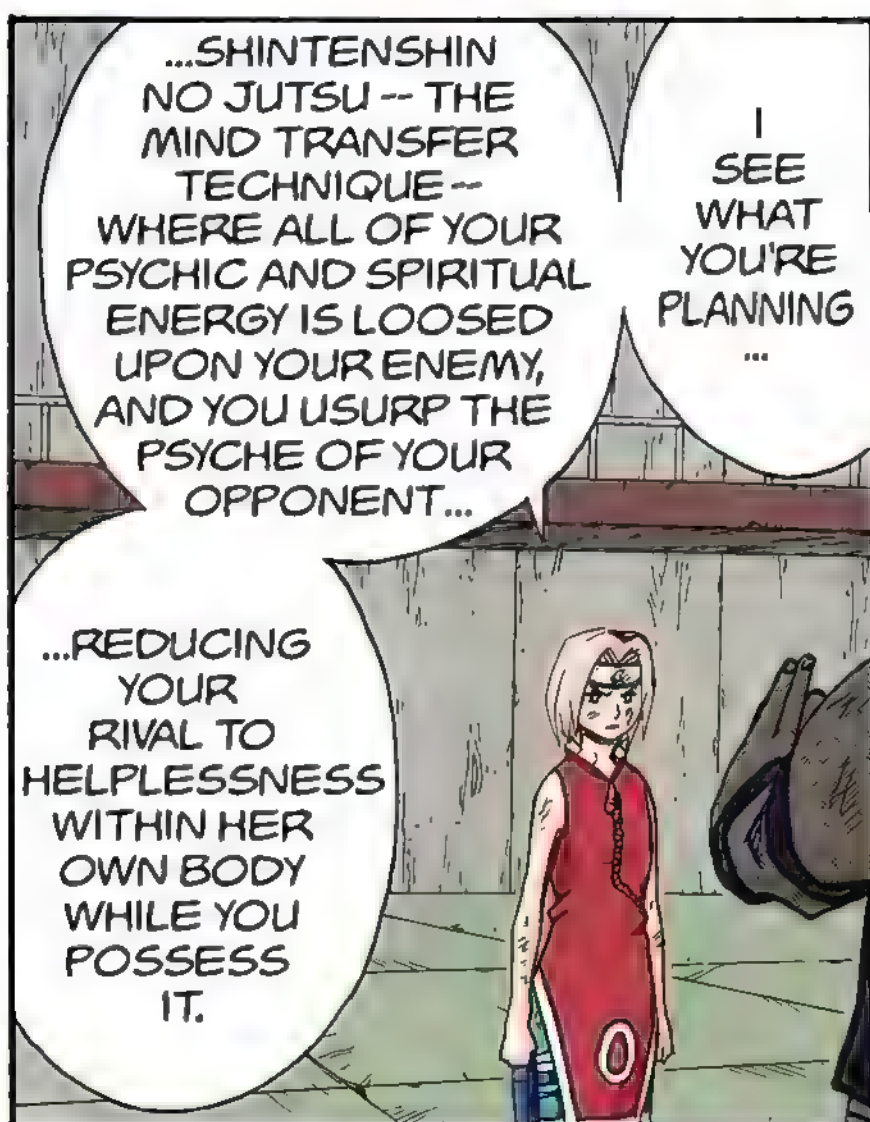
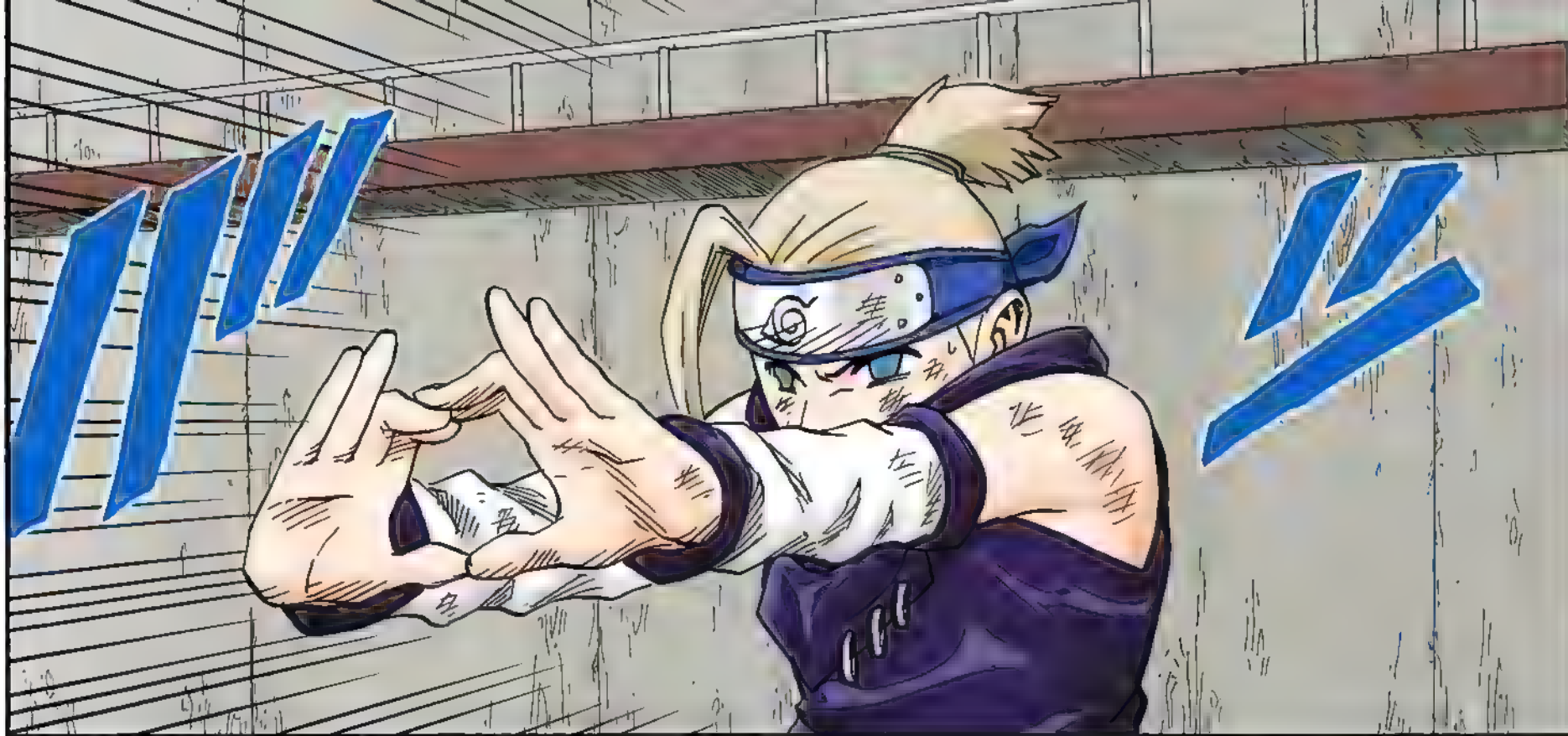
INO'S AN IDIOT, LETTING SAKURA'S WORDS GET TO HER LIKE

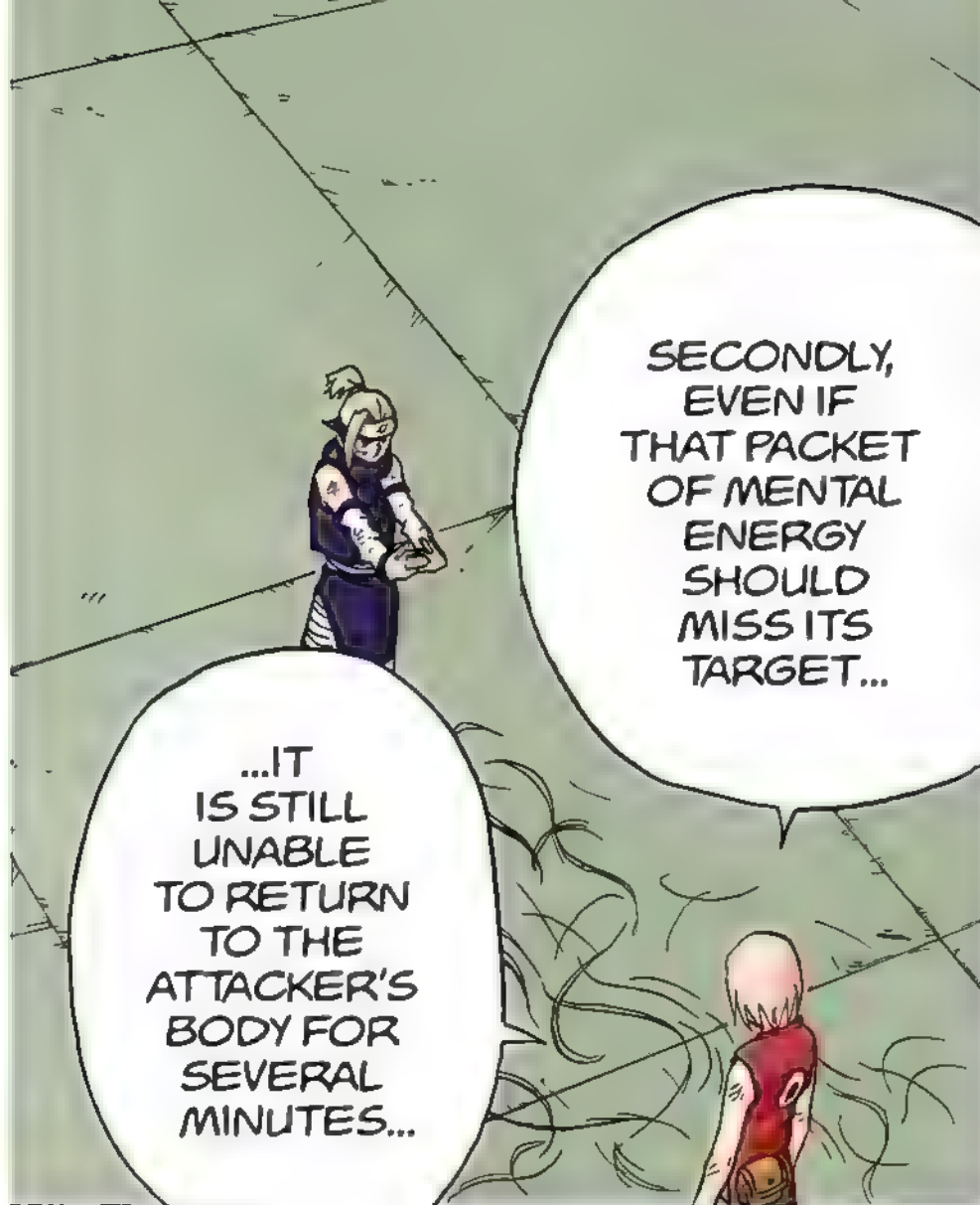
I DON'T LIKE SEEING INO THIS WAY!





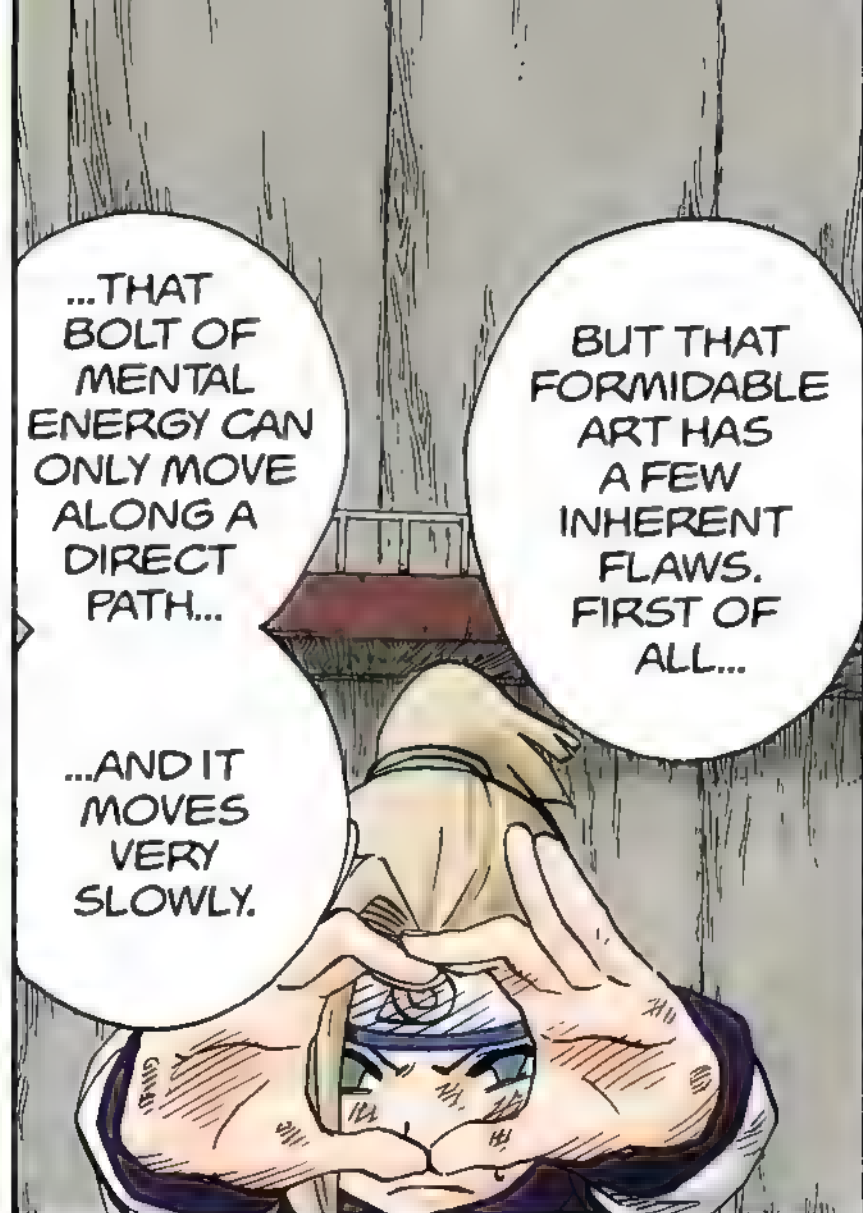






SECONDLY,
EVEN IF
THAT PACKET
OF MENTAL
ENERGY
SHOULD
MISS ITS
TARGET...

...IT
IS STILL
UNABLE
TO RETURN
TO THE
ATTACKER'S
BODY FOR
SEVERAL
MINUTES...



...THAT
BOLT OF
MENTAL
ENERGY CAN
ONLY MOVE
ALONG A
DIRECT
PATH...

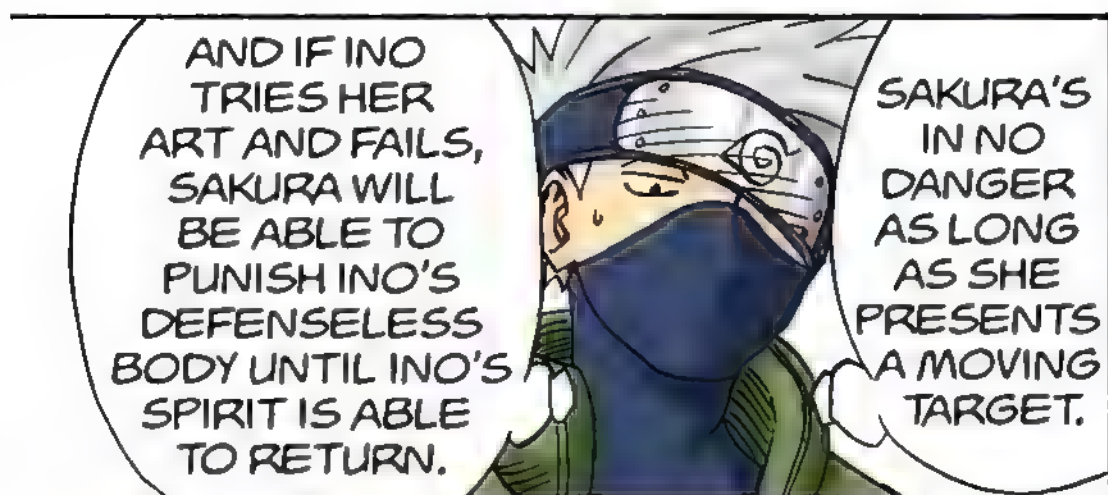
...AND IT
MOVES
VERY
SLOWLY.

BUT THAT
FORMIDABLE
ART HAS
A FEW
INHERENT
FLAWS.
FIRST OF
ALL...



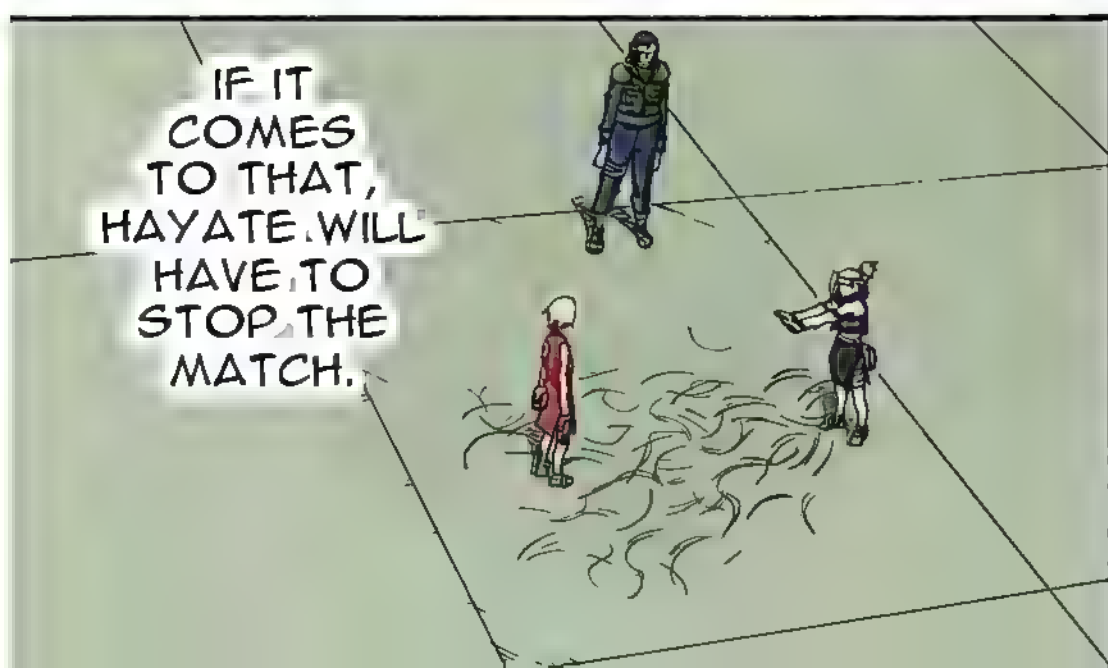
...VULNERABLE
AS A
RAG
DOLL.

AND DURING
THAT TIME,
YOUR OWN
BODY
REMAINS
LIMP,
HELPLESS...

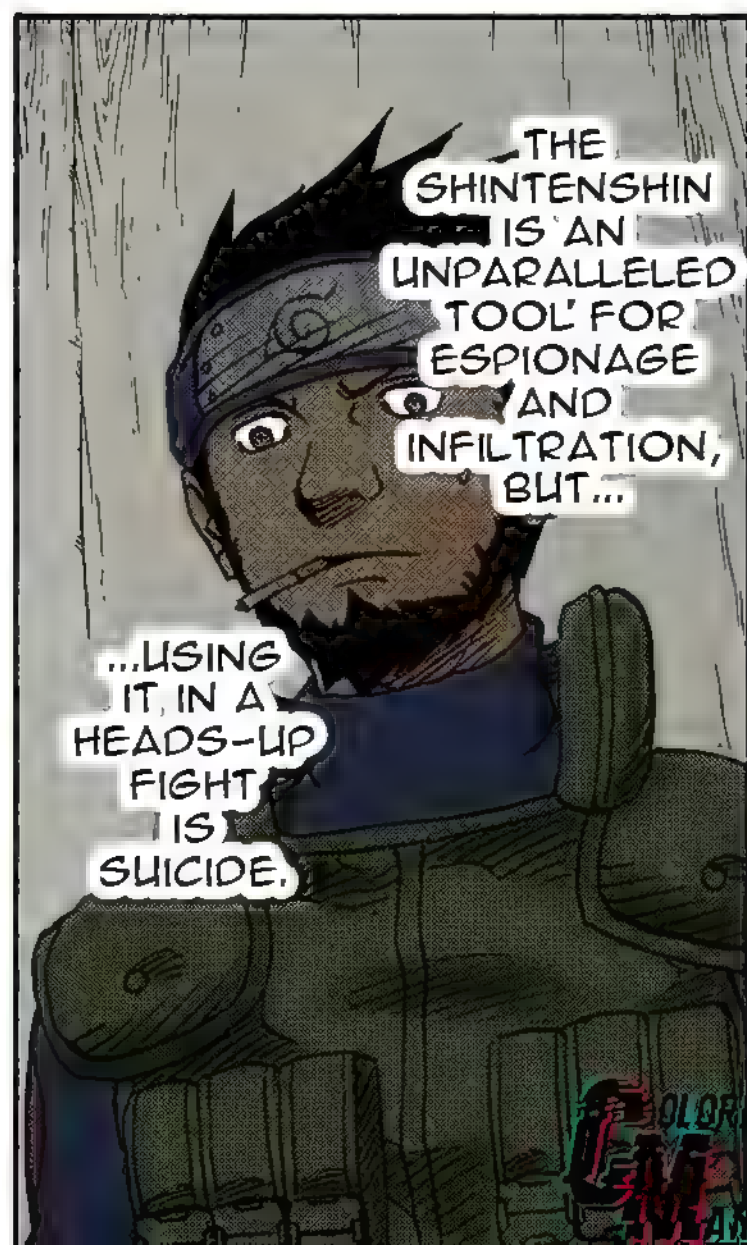


AND IF INO
TRIES HER
ART AND FAILS,
SAKURA WILL
BE ABLE TO
PUNISH INO'S
DEFENSELESS
BODY UNTIL INO'S
SPIRIT IS ABLE
TO RETURN.

SAKURA'S
IN NO
DANGER
AS LONG
AS SHE
PRESENTS
A MOVING
TARGET.

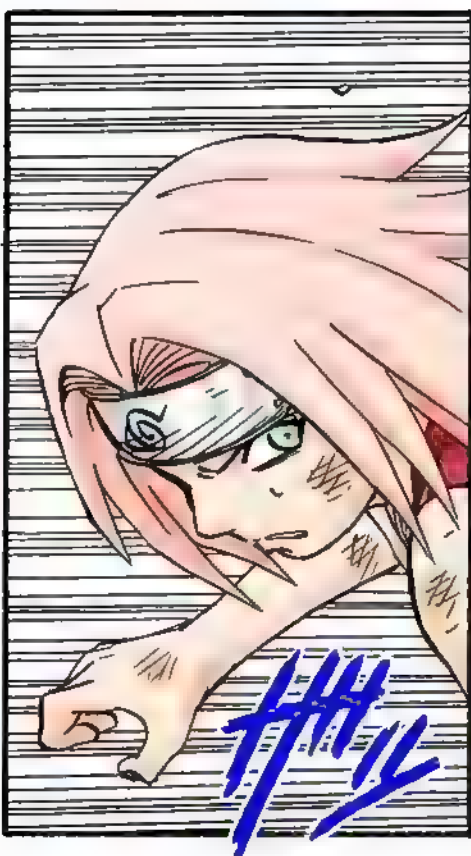
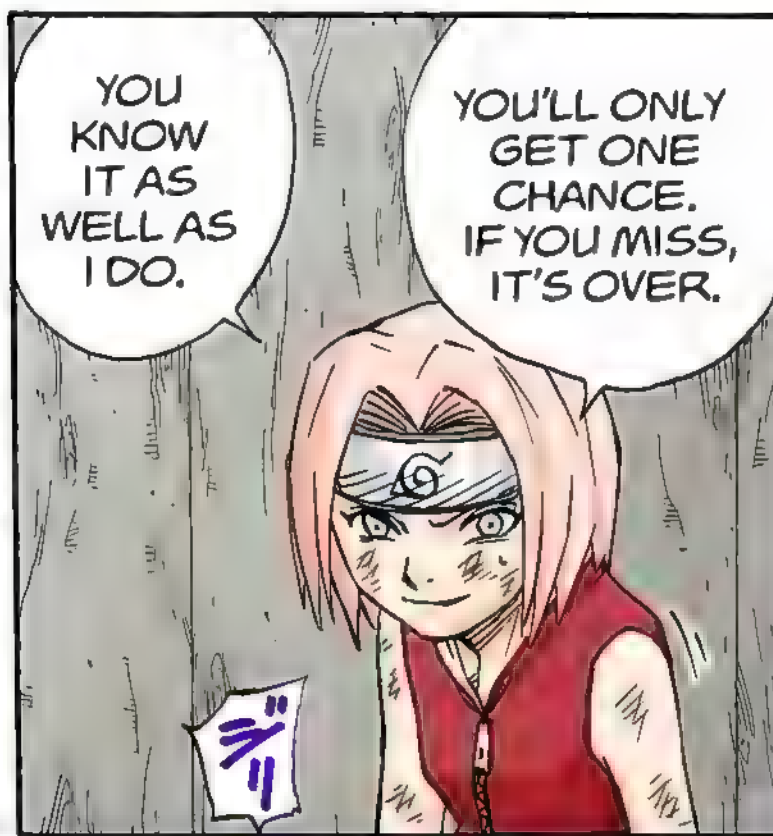
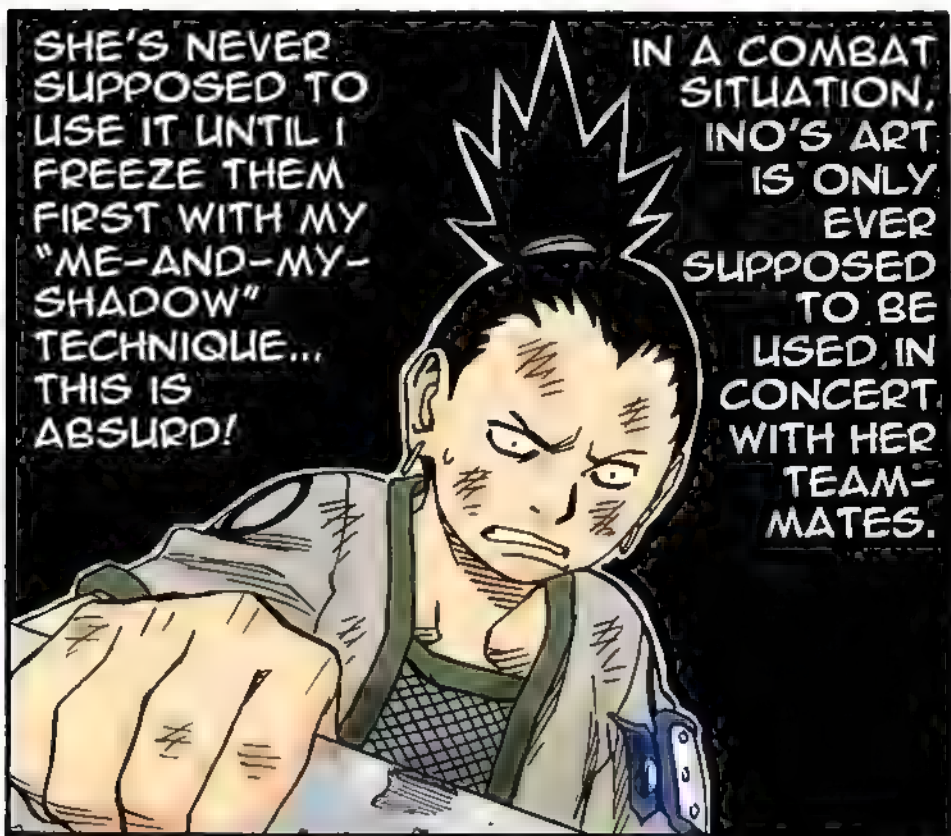
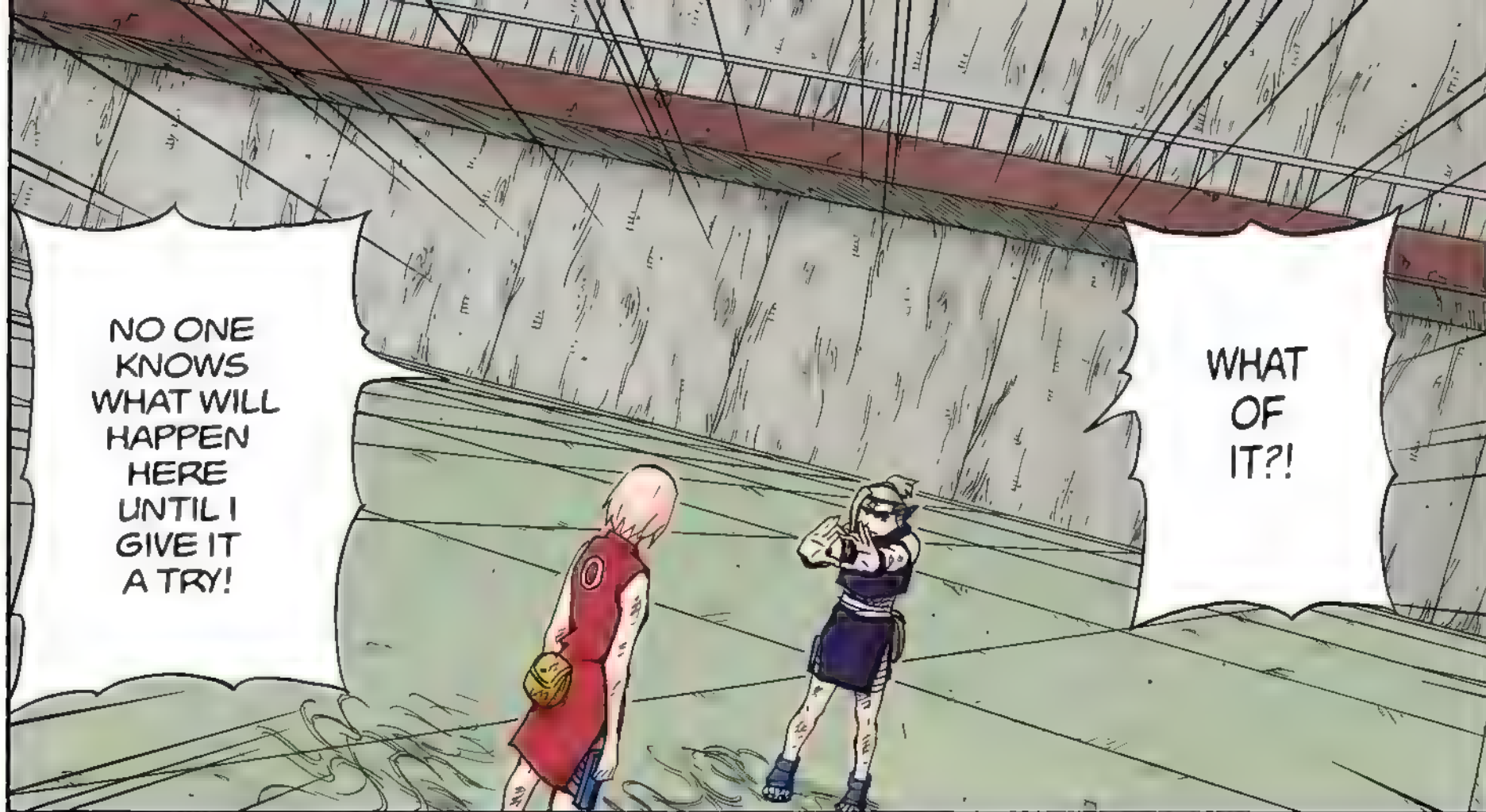


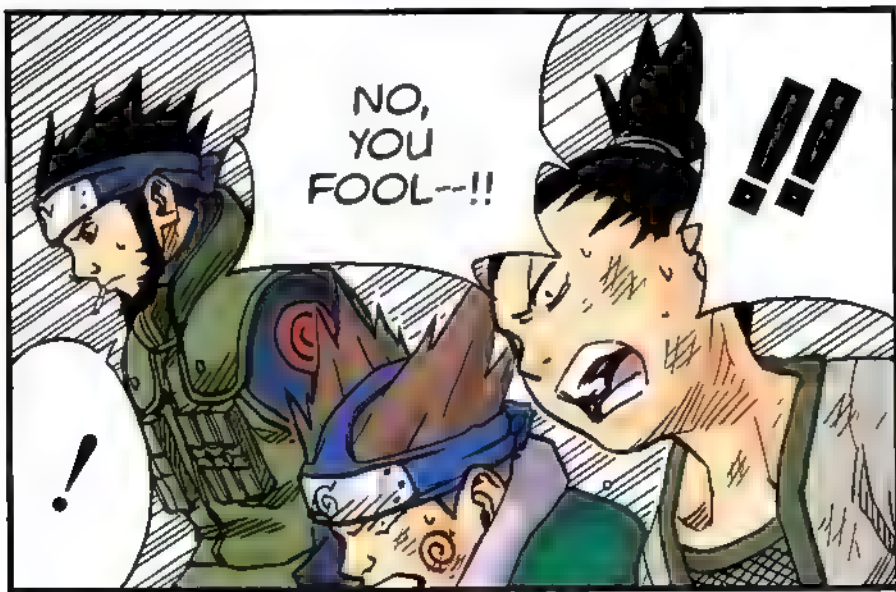
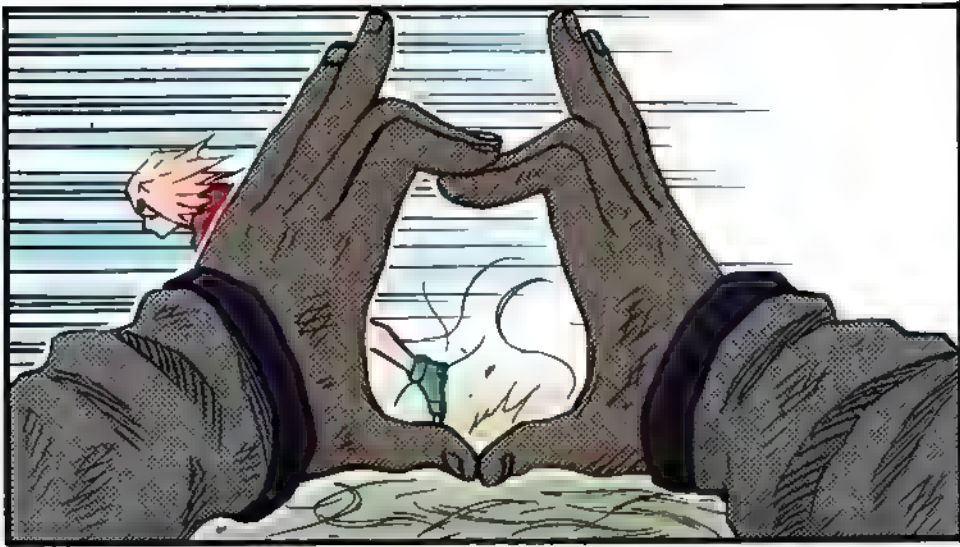
IF IT
COMES
TO THAT,
HAYATE WILL
HAVE TO
STOP THE
MATCH.



THE
SHINTENSHIN
IS AN
UNPARALLELED
TOOL FOR
ESPIONAGE
AND
INFILTRATION,
BUT...

...USING
IT, IN A
HEADS-UP
FIGHT
IS
SUICIDE.





NO,
YOU
FOOL---!!

!!



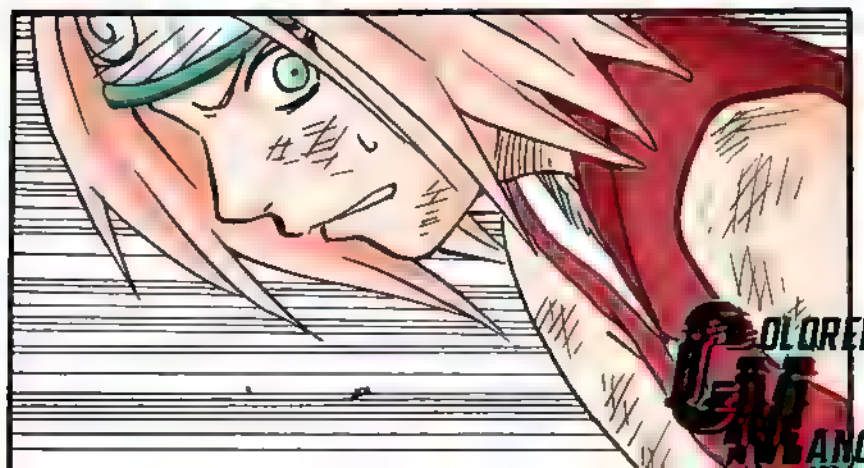
!?

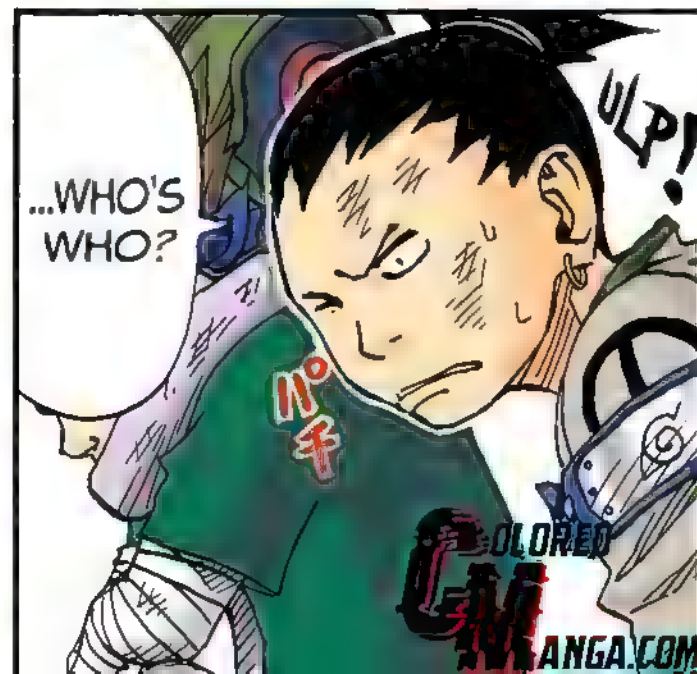
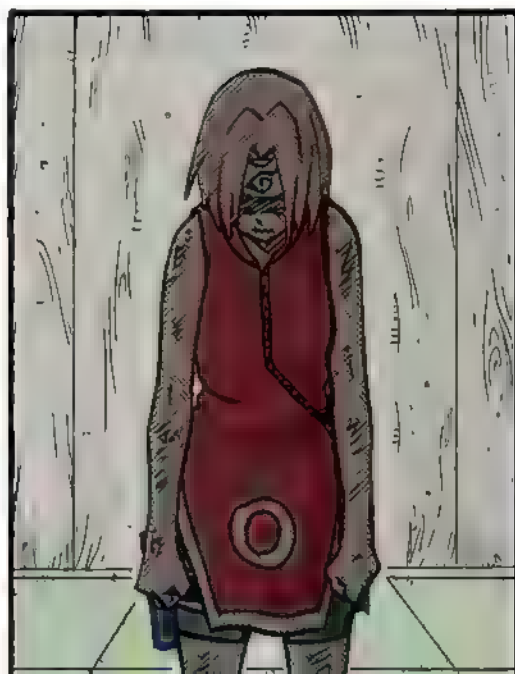
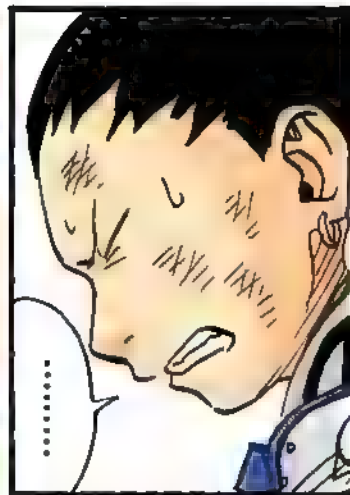
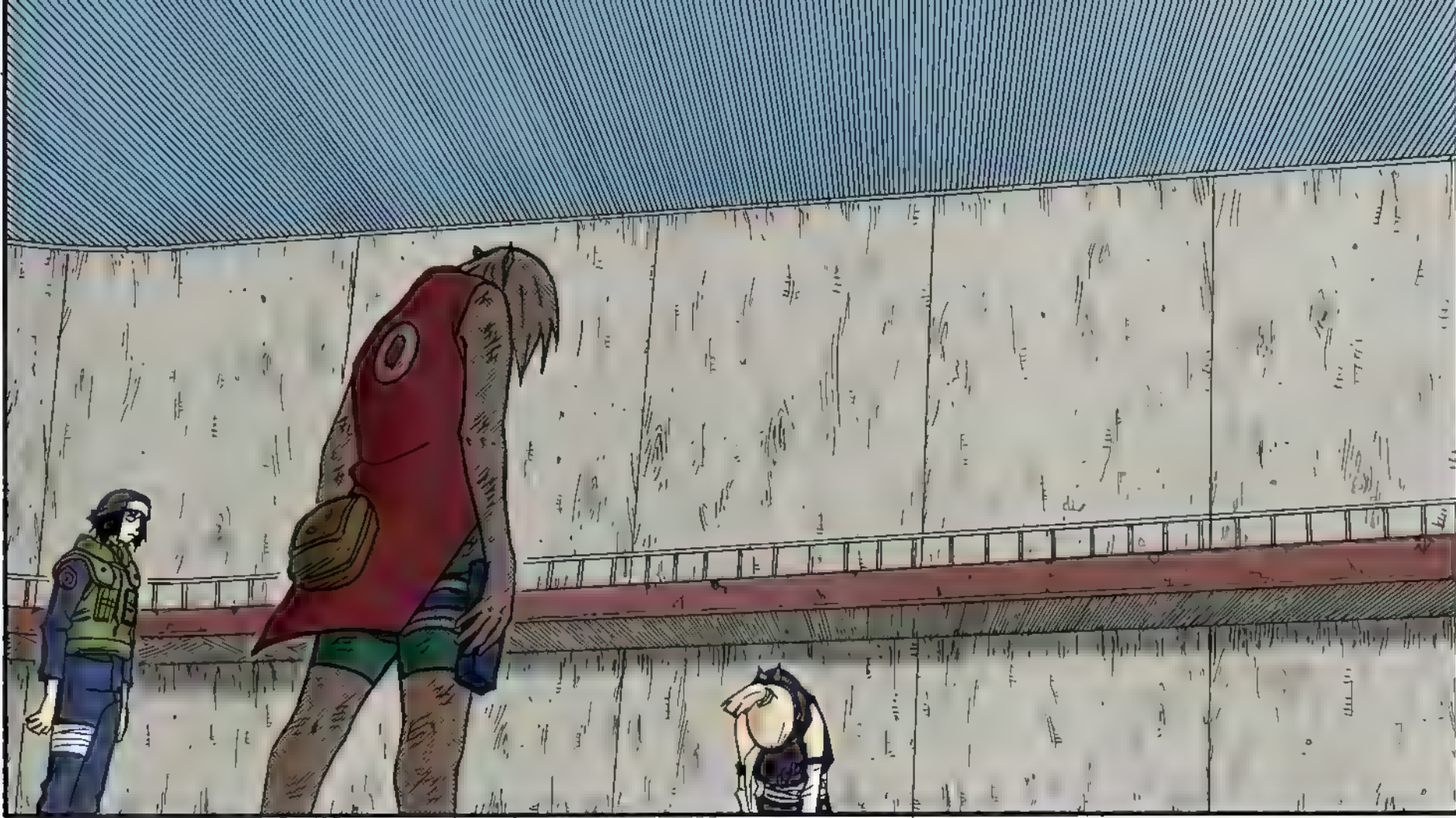
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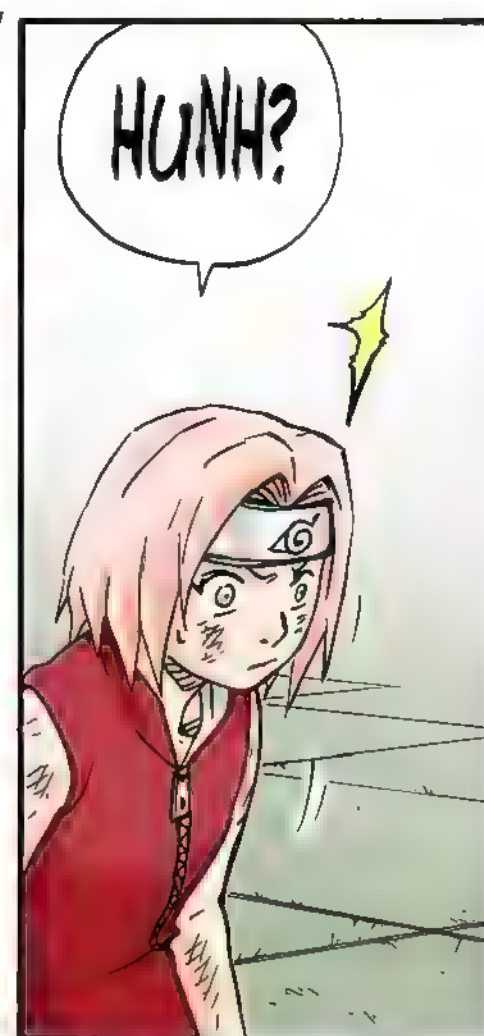
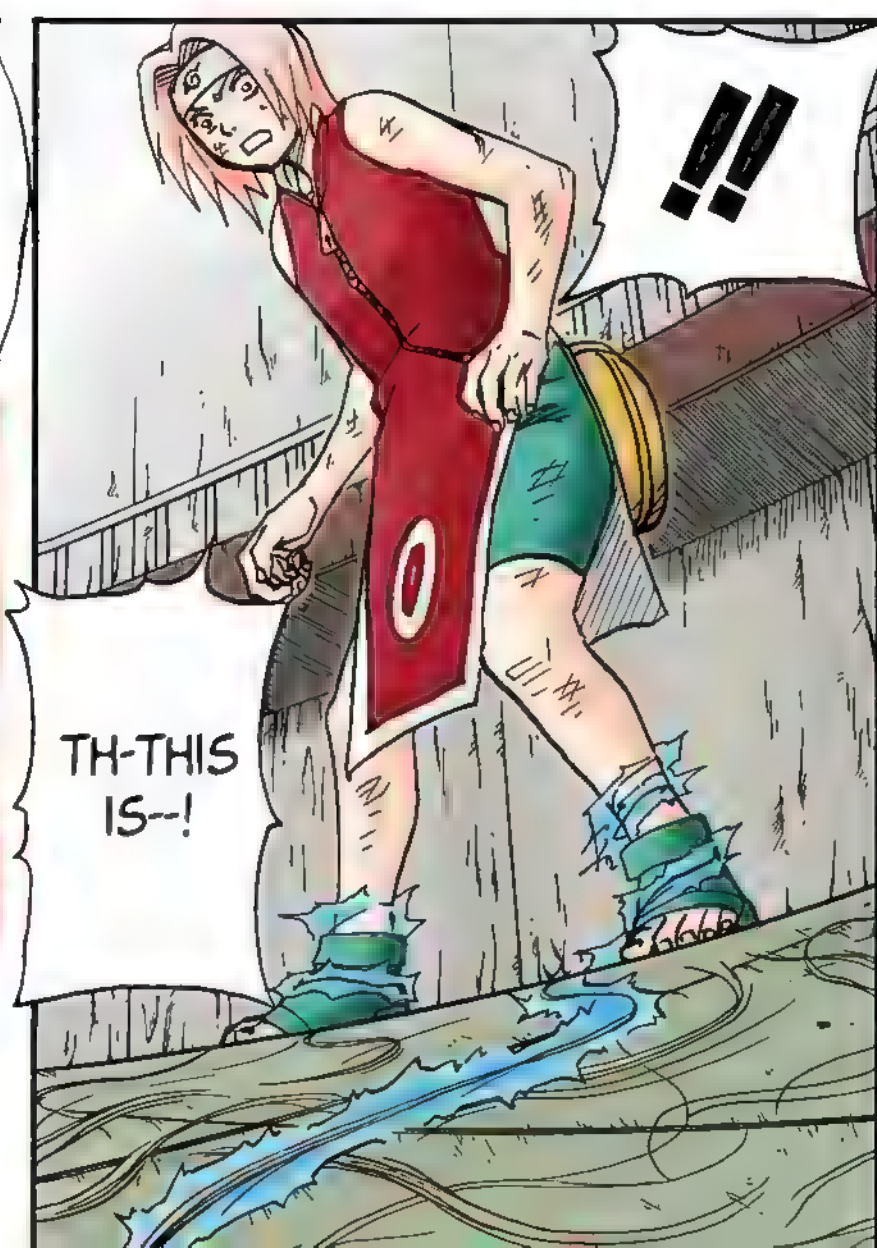
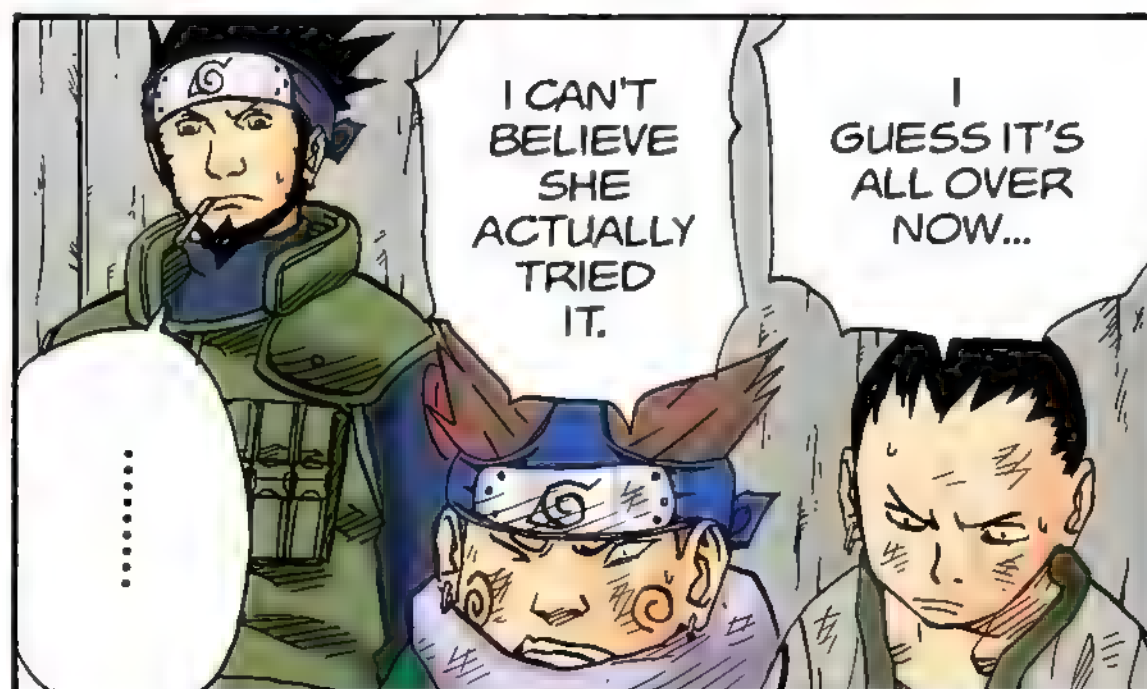
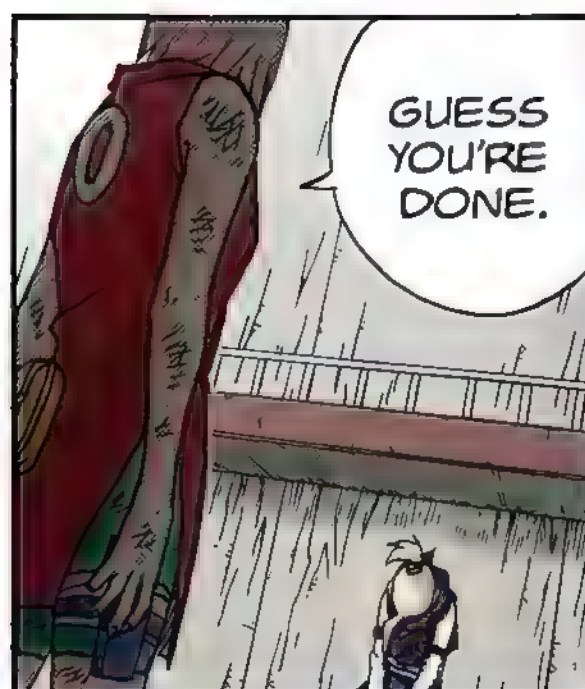


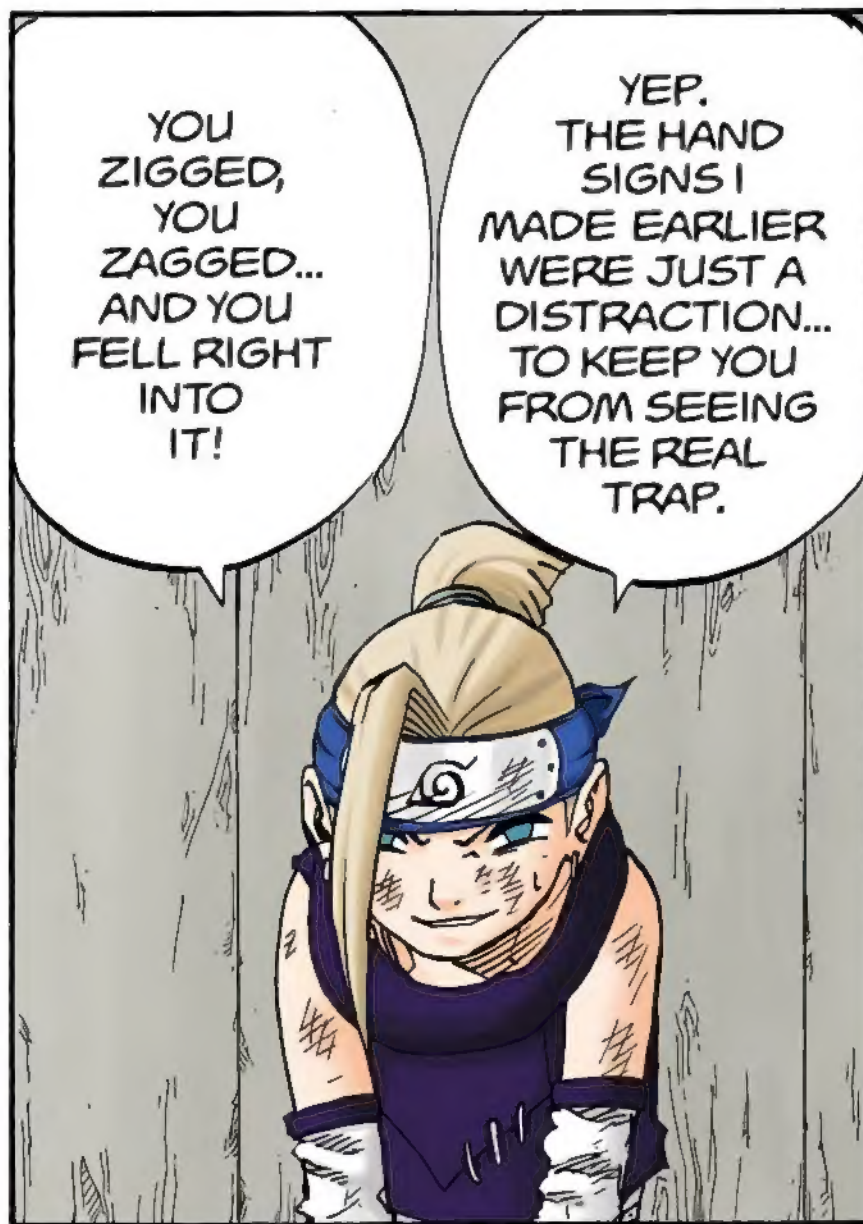
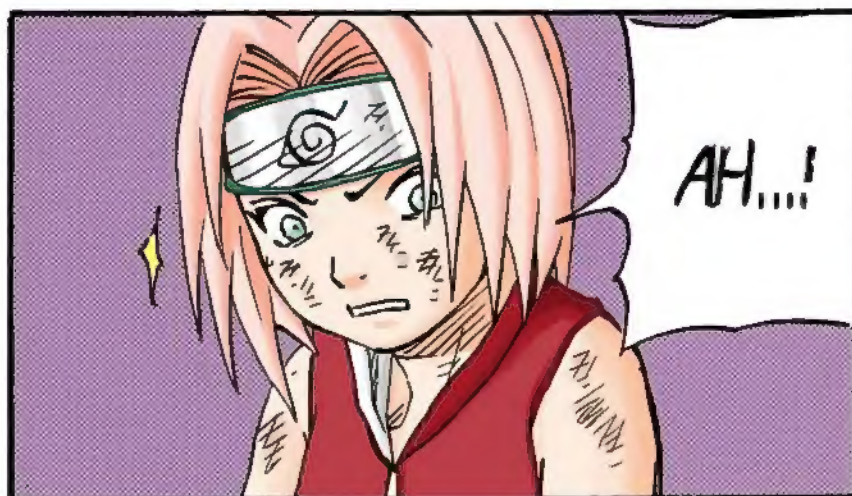
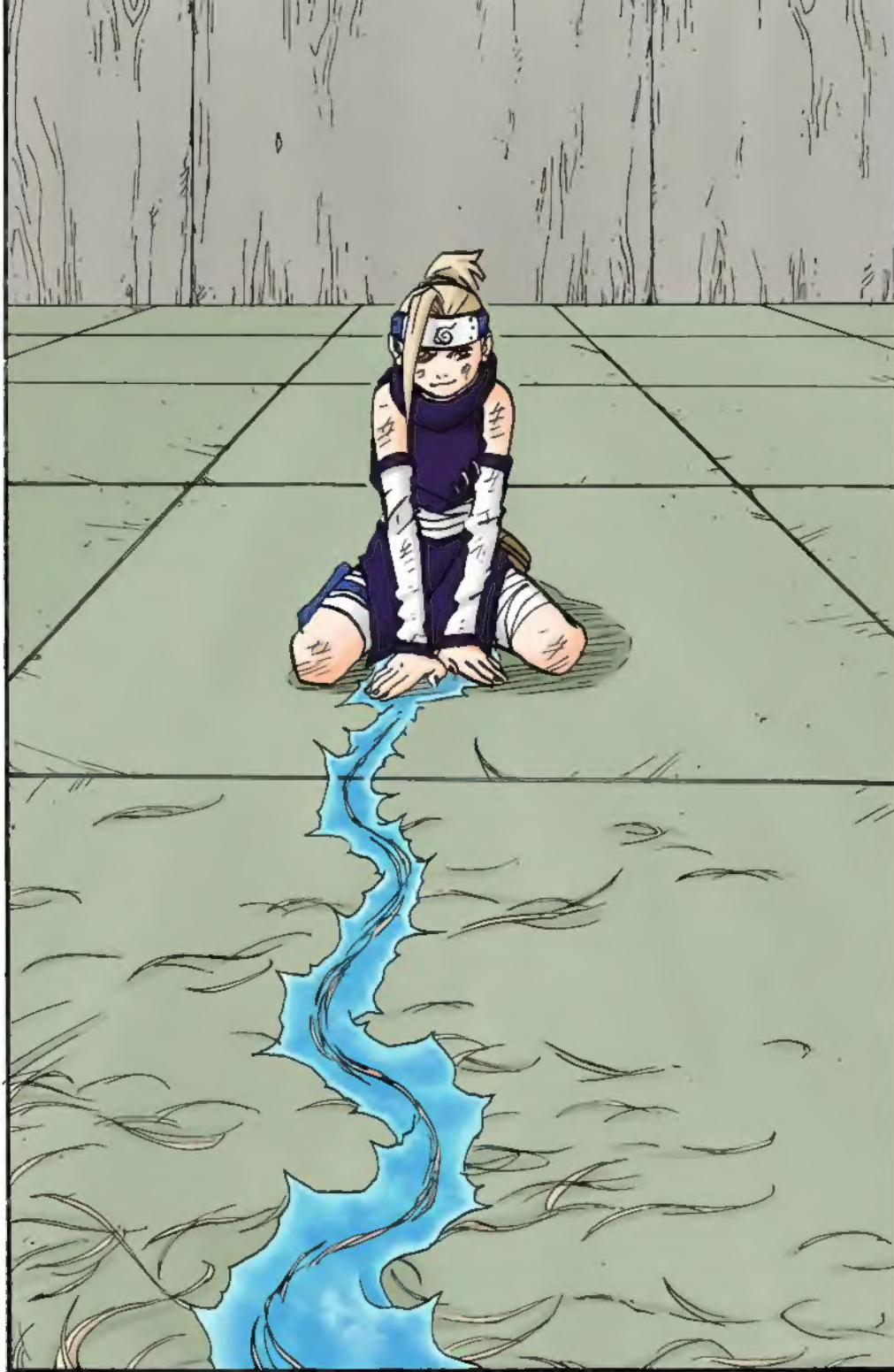
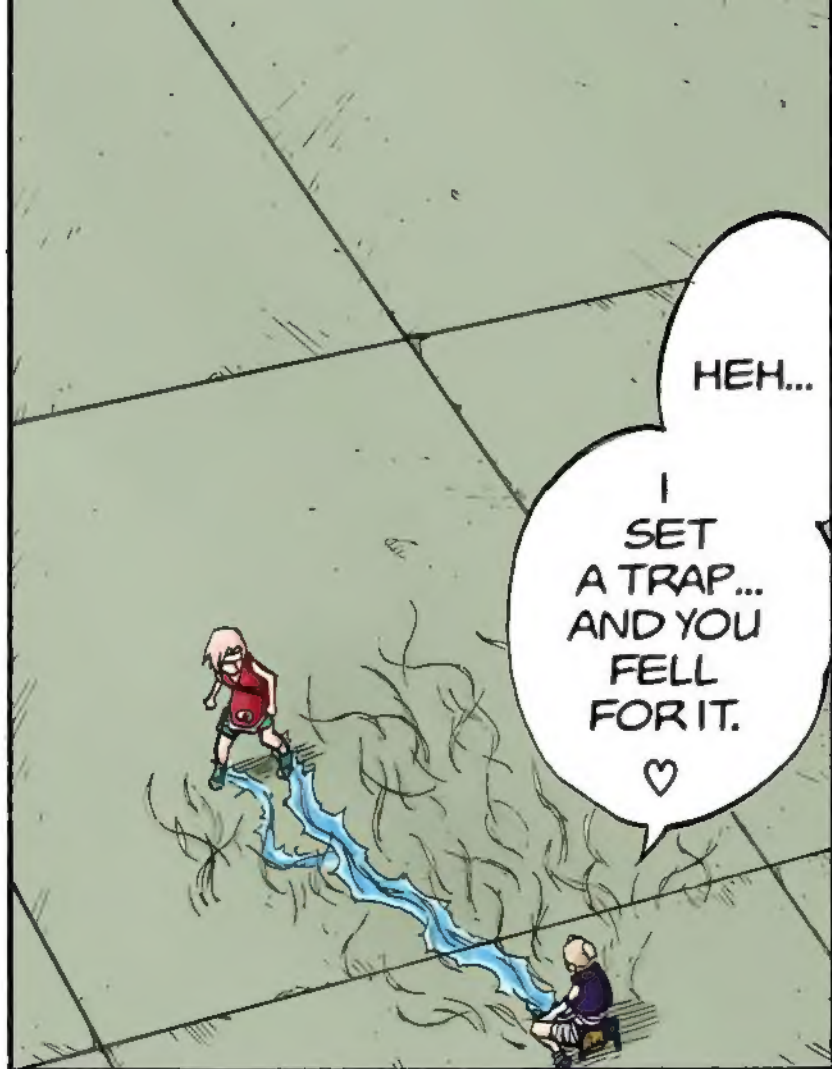
SHIN-
TEN-
SHIN
NO
JUTSU
!!

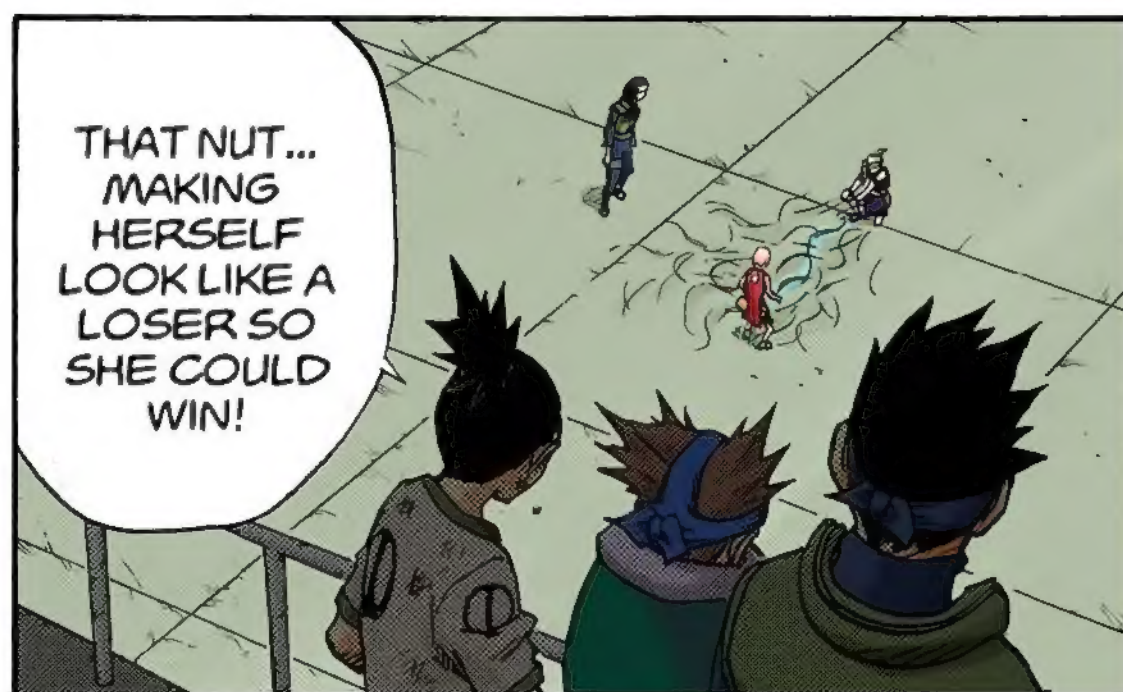
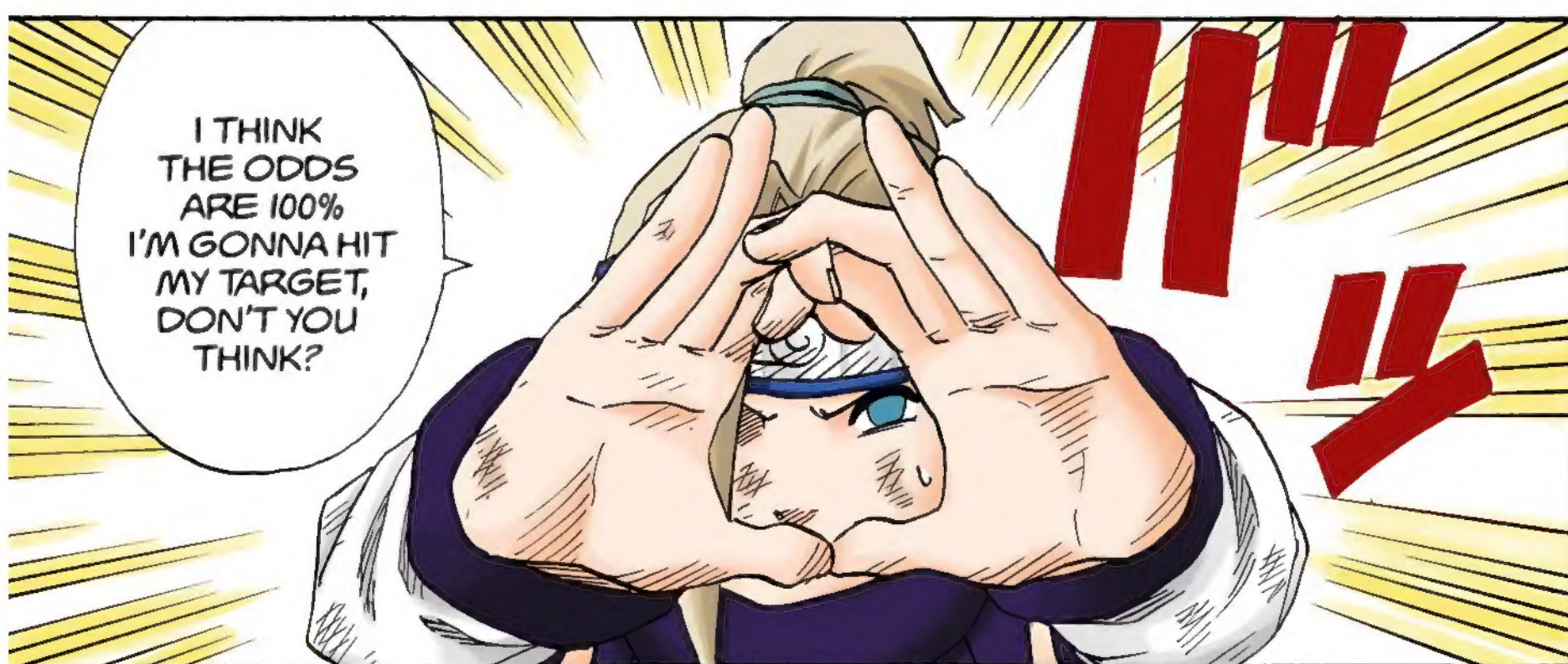
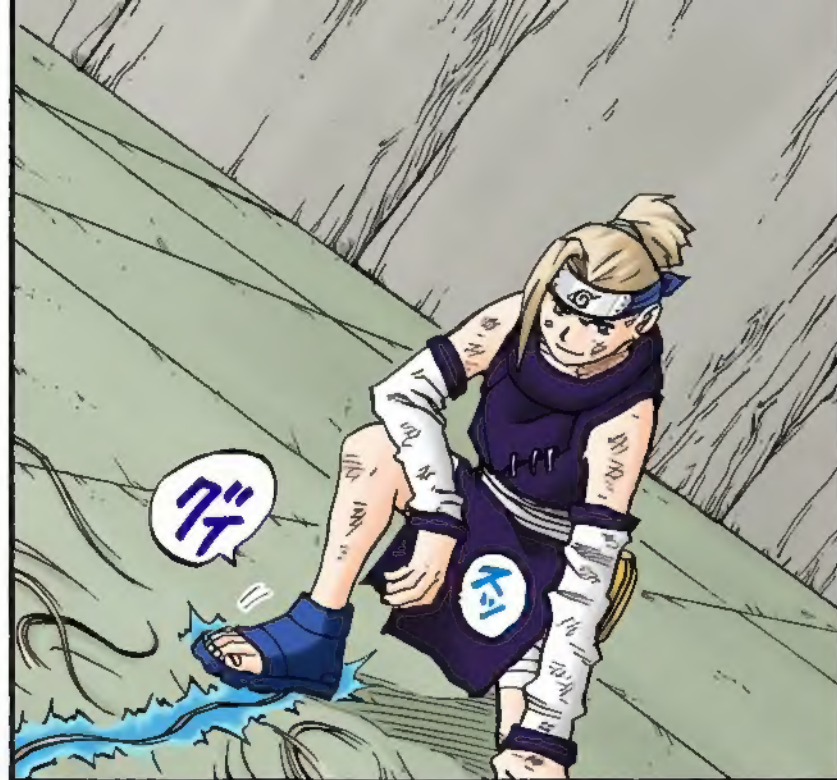
NINJA
ART
....

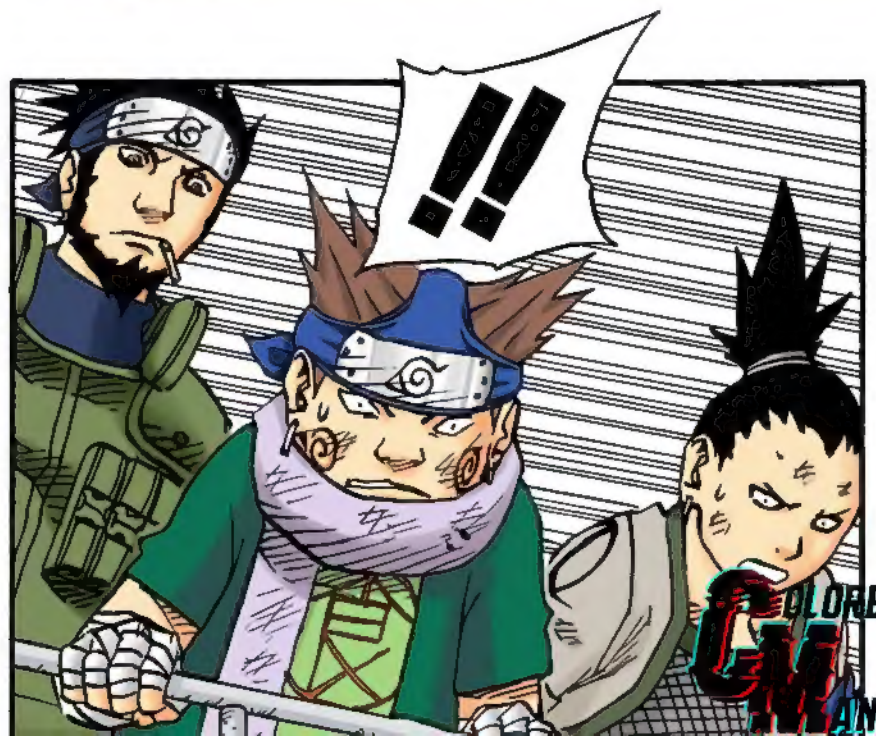


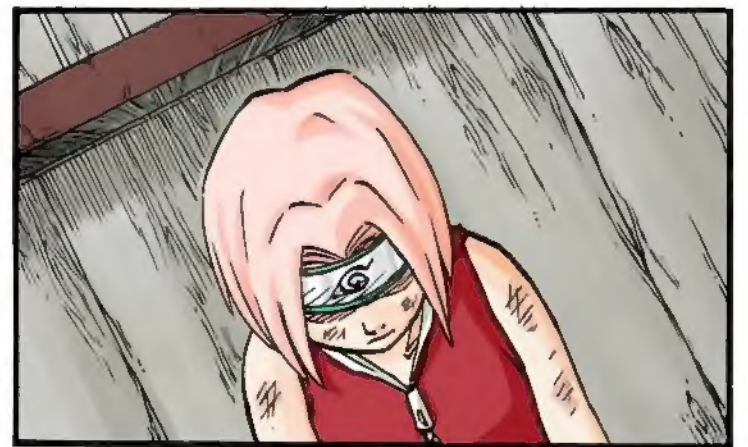
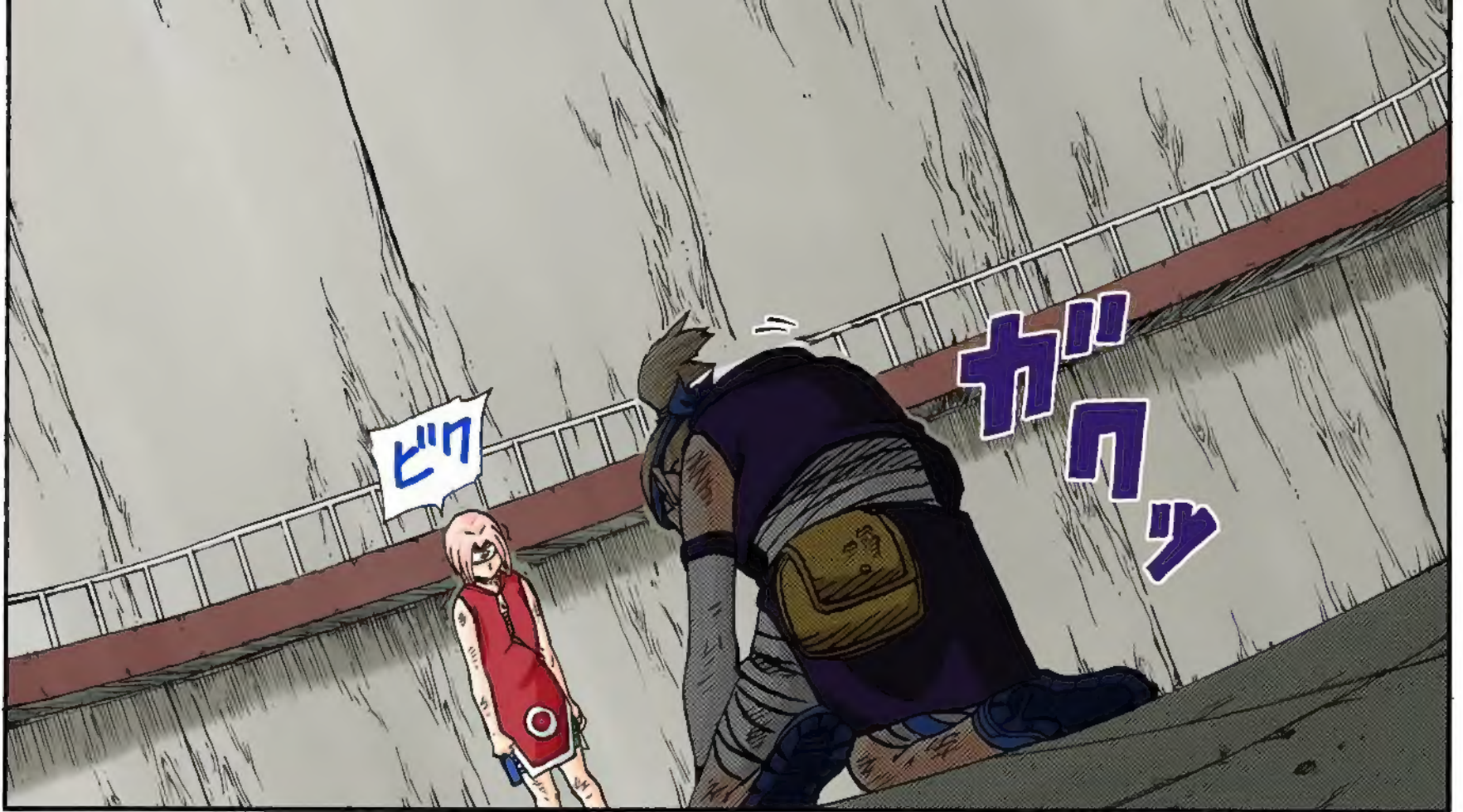












SAKURA...